



Belmont Human Rights Commission
Belmont Town Hall, Conference Room 1
Thursday, May 2, 2013
7pm

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Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance: Carl Brauer, Barbara Watson, Regina O'Brien, Rachel Rennard, Fran Yuan, Jirair Hovsepian

Belmont High School Liaison: Daniel Vernick

Belmont Police Liaison: Cpt. Peter Hoerr

Belmont Against Racism (BAR): Kathryn Bonfiglio

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:08pm.

April Minutes: Carl moved, Fran seconded. All in favor.

Phone Line & Email Report and Assignments:

- April: Rachel reported that there was one message left (a name and phone number) and she returned the call, no response.
- May: Daniel on phone and email duty
- June: Jirair (until end of June)

Town Website Photo Collage: Regina emailed Robert Reardon, Jr., an email asking if we can publish it to our HRC page. More information for next meeting.

HRC Brochure: Daniel shared a hard-copy draft of the redesigned brochure; he will email a soft-copy to the group and we will provide feedback prior to the next meeting for another revision. Fran did share concerns about size/shape.

Commemoration of Armenian Genocide:

- Monday, April 8, 2013: Board of Selectmen Reading of Proclamation: Jirair represented the HRC, Barbara was also in attendance. After the proclamation, Jirair read a statement on behalf of the HRC. The statement will be entered into the commission record via the minutes, and a soft-copy will be provided to the group.
- Friday, April 19, 2013: Commemoration at the Massachusetts State House was postponed due to the shelter-in-place order. The event will not be rescheduled. Watertown did have a commemoration on April 24th; was recorded and televised by the Belmont Media Center.

Possible Cosponsor Event(s): Discussion regarding cosponsoring the Friends of the Belmont Public Library Author Series (Julie Wu, *The Third Son*; Robert M. Neer, Napalm, *An American Biography*); Fran moves that we cosponsored the two author talks, Carl seconded. All in favor.

Belmont Against Racism (BAR) MLK Breakfast:



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- Confirmation of Teams:
 - Registration and Bookkeeping: Regina, Daniel
 - Program Planning and Publicity: Carl, Fran, Rachel, Paul
 - Food Procurement: Fran, Jirair
 - Event Management (Logistics, Volunteers, and Childcare Providers): Barbara, Rachel
 - Media (Day-of): Jirair
- Moving June meeting to Monday, June 24th to discuss program. Fran will reach out to local HRCs, World of Watertown, and Winchester Multicultural Group re: local speakers.
- Revolving account has been added to the Town Warrant.

Other Events:

- Belmont Freedom to Marry Ice Cream Social (May 17, 2013): Rancatore's will be providing the ice cream. Flyers will be available.
- Boston's Annual Pride Parade, Belmont Participants (June 8, 2013): Email Fran if you want to travel to Boston w/ the Belmont group.
- Mother's Day March (May 12, 2013): Email belmontagainstracism@gmail.com if you want to participate. More information online here: <http://mothersdaywalk4peace.org/>
- Meet Belmont, Chenery Middle School (August 27, 2013): We will have a table, Barbara will be on hand.

Liaison Reports:

Belmont Police: Conclusion on the investigation discussed in March and April; the classification is "not substantiated" (i.e., there was not enough information that there was a violation of policy, or not enough information that there wasn't). Discussion re: the police response to the events in Watertown on April 18th and 19th: Commission members expressed thanks to Cpt. Hoerr and asked him to share that with the precinct; Cpt. Hoerr shared information regarding police response en masse to major events and training for use of firearms, etc.



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BAR: BAR's annual meeting is Thursday, May 9th at the Library in the meeting room.

Other:

- Barbara shared a survey she received from a previous Belmont resident; the survey noted that the individual felt that the ban on night parking was discriminatory to lower- to middle-class income families/individuals.
- Discussion regarding learning about young people learning diversity and respect for others sparked due to the events of Marathon Monday. Kathryn discussed some of the ways that BAR and other groups have supported that in the schools (e.g., EMI Training for Teachers, School Core Values). The schools are currently incorporating it into the overall curriculum and have optional speakers/programs available. Barbara asked us to keep this in mind to see if there is a place for us in the community to support continued learning.

Adjourned: Carl moved to adjourn the meeting, Barbara seconded. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 6, 2013, 7pm, Belmont Town Hall