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**Belmont Human Rights Commission Meeting
Belmont Town Hall
June 16, 2011**

Meeting minutes

Present: Regina O'Brien, Carl Brauer, Julie Cicalese, Fran Yuan
Prospective member: Jirair Hovesapian
Liaison: Peter Hoerr

Meeting convened 7:10 pm

1. June minutes approved.
2. Phone line, Carl in June, Julie in July, Regina August. Each person will begin assignment on the 1st of the month.
3. Will schedule meeting in July - targeting July 18th, Fran will check with other members. There are two members up for consideration on the commission - yet the selectman have not made any appointments - Fran will check on the status.
4. Patch - online newspaper - has submitted some questions to Fran and she doesn't feel can answer the specific questions b/c they don't pertain (some) but will meet with her and talk to her in person to give her overview/introduction.
5. Fran has reached out to high school students - potential involvement and how might we have them involved - consider inviting those who reached out to next meeting. Possibly arrange for student liaison to HRC. Fran will send next meeting announcement to the interested students and to the list of interested people from town day and invite them to the next meeting.
6. Discussed need to determine whether there are specific skills we need and/or would like to replace on the commission.
7. Fran did interview for Belmont media - will air tonight.
8. Meeting with BAR for fall - should let Fran know of any particular agenda items for that meeting - Fran will send minutes from last meeting to help us consider. Venues for next year - should try for main library and Benton library. Discussed other venues and outreach- discussed posting meeting announcements in other venues, library, Belmont media etc. Formal meetings would be in public buildings and will do other meetings as outreach and only a few of us would go and rotate. Need to generate a list of possible groups for outreach.
9. Fran was approached by Mass Peace Action to raise awareness about Afghanistan and co-sponsoring film viewings. Discussed the need to know more about the substance of the films and discussed whether issues beyond Belmont are where we want to focus our efforts. Fran will send a copy of the letter to all of us so we can review before deciding. May need more information from the group requesting.
10. We were not encouraged to create a Facebook page. Would be helpful to know how Facebook would not meet open meeting requirements. Discussed the potential

advantages and disadvantages to using Facebook and online communication. Regina would like connect with Tom Younger to further explore the ability to create a Facebook page. Fran will connect Regina to Tom.

11. Fran reported on meeting with Nava at Beech Street Center - concerns about derogatory comments and increased diversity at the center, and negative reactions to some of the group interests. Fran had talked with someone who does work in diversity issues about working with Nava pro bono.
12. Peter reported on a complaint received against two police officers and the assertion that they had made inappropriate comments regarding sexual orientation. Peter investigated and has submitted a report of finding.
13. 8/30 - Meet Belmont event - looking for HRC members to staff table.
14. Brainstorming ideas:
 - Faces of Belmont;
 - Affordable housing;
 - Food - getting local restaurants involved;
 - Documenting diversity in Belmont;
 - One book theme and/or sponsor book and author in library series;
 - Outreach with residents;
 - Visibility and promotion;
 - Discussed co-sponsoring - consider films, book with library;
 - Genocide and high school student program and programs around tolerance for young people.

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Cicalese