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Belmont Human Rights Commission
Belmont Public Library, Conference Room
Tuesday, September 10, 2013 7pm

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance: Carl Brauer, Nan Donald, Jirair Hovsepian, Rachel Rennard, Daniel Vernick, Barbara Watson, Fran Yuan

Belmont Against Racism (BAR): Jonathan Jacoby, June Robert

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:05 pm

1. **June 24, 2013 Meeting Minutes:** Corrections to the draft minutes were made. Carl moved to accept the minutes. Nan seconded. All in favor.
2. **Phone line:** Fran reported that there were no messages for August. Daniel said there were two messages unrelated to HRC business so far in September.

A phone line message retrieval list was made:

October – Nan
November - Barbara
December – Carl
January – Daniel
February – Fran
March- Jerry
April – Nan
May – Paul
June- Barbara

3. **Resignation:** Rachel announced that she was resigning because of her move to Stoneham. Gratitude for her service was expressed by all.
4. **Member reappointments:** Carl, Fran, Nan, and Paul were reappointed to new terms. Daniel was elevated to full member. As a result, there are two openings on the commission.
5. **MLK Breakfast**

Speakers: Carl and Fran, who are on the MLK program committee, reported on the selections for speakers. It was agreed that an invitation would be offered to State Senator Linda Dorcena-Forry. A formal letter will be sent by Barbara. Fran agreed to send the letter Mike Collins drafted to Barbara and Carl.

If Linda Dorcena-Forry declines, the program committee will consider moving onto their other choices.

Nan recommended that we consider re-inviting speakers who are unavailable this year. It was agreed that an honorarium would be mentioned upon invitation but not a monetary amount, which would be negotiated later. BAR would provide the honorarium so the amount they have available should be reconfirmed.

Barbara asked who would do the fundraising this year? Jonathan confirmed that BAR would this year.

Jonathan mentioned Paul from Community Change, who has worked for years on getting white people to help battle racism.

Diane Wilshire might also be a source of recommendations for future MLK speakers.

Other MLK issues:

Barbara reported that David Kale introduced her to town contacts at the Health Department, School Department, and the treasurer, who might be involved providing support to the MLK breakfast.

Fran will speak with Charlene O'Connor about food and places that have donated in the past.

Jerry proposed an Ad Book to raise money for the breakfast, but others felt it was too much work, which we were not prepared to do this year.

Barbara will reach out to churches for volunteers and wondered what help was needed. Jonathan said he was here to help and Barbara said they would work together.

BAR will still raise funds for MLK, including from religious institutions. Typically 5 or 6 get involved. John Robotham is the head of the Religious Council, so it was hoped he could send out a letter.

Barbara will report next meeting on the overall planning. She also mentioned having some books that she might want to have at the breakfast.

6. Recruiting New Members:

Carl mentioned a number of people who might be asked to be commission members. Fran agreed to put an ad for two new members in the local newspaper, boston.com, Belmont Patch, and on Cable TV.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm