

Belmont Human Rights Commission
Minutes
Sept. 9, 2004
7-9 P.M.
Town Hall Conference Room 1

Interim Chair, Rudman opened the meeting at 7 P.M. Members present were: Bannon, Barry, Feins, McCants, Reynolds, Rudman, Shestafsky, & Tourreilles. Heron arrived late and has not been sworn in yet by the Town Clerk.

-As previously discussed Town counsel letter cast doubt on the commission's ability to mediate or investigate- a letter to the selectman requesting clarity of the issue was drafted by Rudman and approved by the commission.

-Minutes of the last meeting of 9/2/04 were submitted by Rudman and approved by the commission.

-S. Shestakofsky accepted the responsibility of taking the minutes at the next meeting of 9/21/04 at 7 p.m. Town Hall meeting room 1.

-Rudman suggested permanent chair selection be after Feb. 1, 2005 when a "charge" by the Selectman has been responded, to wit; "...to start a process for promoting diversity...".

-Feins copied commission by e-mail on accepted info to be e-mailed to commission members,

-Reynolds submitted a pro-forum for discussion on the direction of the commission, methods, focus & implementations.

-Solomon wil copy members on Intro to HRC activities.

-Shestakofsky- mentioned training for commission & the attendance of Frank Amorosa, MAHRC, Dept. of Justice at our next meeting; approved by commission.

Mead not gotten back yet.

-Solomon mandate clarification- this is a broad mandate, develop a process for promoting diversity.

-e-mail from Solomon to Rudman- concerned over lack of minorities & diversity on commission. Discussion followed. Agreed by commission that more people & diversity need to be appointed to commission and not merely to just to fill spots.

-McCants emphasized the wealth of info from the City of Melrose HRC-
www.cityofmelrose.org.

-Shestakofsky- The process is more important than the Commission.

-Public Attendance: Mr. James Siracusa introduced himself and relayed two incidents involving the Belmont Police: A. Solicitors who are threatening & B. Response by Belmont Police to anti-Semitic literature being passed out this summer. Mr. Siracusa stated that the Belmont Police is not racist, but there may be certain police officers who are.

-McCant: stated there should be a Belmont Police officer who is in charge of handling HR complaints and can collect data to clarify incidents. This would be his only job.

-Reynolds, Shestakofsky- salad and salad bowl concept of diversity reflecting taste and place.

-Solomon- key issue is to get more people to listen. We need more listeners. Less reacting and more responding.

-Rudman- Our statistics do not make us a bad town. Our lack of diveristy is not a bad thing, its where we are. (91.2% of Belmont is white).

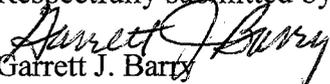
-Next Meetings:

9/21

10/5

-Meeting adjourned 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,


Garrett J. Barry

9/10/04