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*Belmont Human Rights Commission*

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**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, November 6, 2014**  
**Belmont Town Hall**  
**Conference Room 1**

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

The following were in attendance:

Members: Carl Brauer, Nan Donald, Jirair Hovsepian, Paul Solomon, Fran Yuan

Liaisons: Belmont Against Racism: Kathryn Bonfiglio, Jonathan Jacoby

Community Member: Mirela Duda

1. Carl chaired the meeting due to Barbara's absence.
2. **Members:** The new applicant to the HRC has not yet been approved by the Selectmen. This is of considerable concern as it has been 5 months since she applied. Carl will contact Bob Reardon again to try to expedite it. Paul will also voice his feelings to the Selectmen.
3. **Minutes:** October meeting minutes were approved unanimously without change.
4. **Phone Line/Email:** Barbara reported to Carl that there were no messages this month; Dan will answer the phone this month with Jerry assigned for December.
5. **MLK Breakfast:**

*Speaker:* Barbara hasn't heard from Phillip Martin since initial acceptance to be 2015 MLK speaker. Barbara has emailed him for a photo that can be used to publicize his appearance at MLK.

*Music:* A number of past performers were mentioned. It was decided that Jerry would approach the director of the chorus at the middle school to see if they had a group of children who might sing. Music is generally needed at the beginning and end of the program. Names of songs selected are needed in advance for sign language interpreters as is the script of the speaker's talk.

*Time frame:* Principal has 5 minutes to welcome everyone. Speaker would have 20 minutes to speak with 10 minutes for Q and A to follow. Music would be a total of 15-20 minutes. 5 minutes are needed to do a fundraising pitch for the METCO activities/transportation fund.

*Invitation to religious leaders:* Fran asked whether there were particular clergy we should invite to do the opening and closing prayers. She should check with John Robotham.
6. **Other activities:**

*Book reading:* Carl mentioned that the Unitarian Church Social Action group headed by Jackie Neal is considering having people read Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's book, *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunities*. It would probably be difficult and expensive to get the authors to appear to speak about the book. Carl will follow up with this and contact Jackie. This is an off-year for One Book One Belmont, which is done every other year.
7. **Liaison Reports:** Kathryn reported that METCO support funds go to other activities as well as to after-school transportation for METCO students who participate in after-school activities. Transportation is in the form of taxis. All of the money raised was used last year. Money is raised through businesses, banks, and at the MLK breakfast. Some thought has been given to selling MLK breakfast tickets ahead of time. Last year, \$24,000 was spent on transportation and around \$10,000 on other things. A total of \$36,000 was reportedly spent. Funds raised are turned over to

the School Department. METCO has about 110 students in the Belmont schools now; Wellington only has 1 new one this year as overcrowding has been an issue.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Fran Yuan, Recorder