

2016 MAR -4 AM 9:15



Belmont Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 4, 2016
Belmont Town Hall
Conference Room 1

The following were in attendance:

Members: Darren Bouwmeester, Carl Brauer, Sarah Jane Henman, Mirela Duda, Paul Solomon, Fran Yuan, Seneca Hart and Barbara Watson

Liaisons: Belmont Against Racism: Kathryn Bonifiglio, Charlene O'Connor, Belmont Police Department: Captain J. Peter Hoerr

Absences: Nan Donald, Jirair Hovsepian

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Meeting minutes: The January meeting minutes were approved, as amended.

March- Paul

April- Jirair

May- Fran

June- Darren

September- Carl

October- Nan

2. **Phone line and e-mail:** Applicant expressed interest in high school liaison position. Discussion about applicant selection process. Call and email from photographer from Martin Luther King Breakfast.

3. **Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast, Monday, January 18, 2016 - Recap**

People commented on how wonderful they felt Senator Forry was. For the record, Barbara thanked everyone who helped with the breakfast, including Coach Hart, Alice Melnikoff and the BHS Belmontian Club, and all volunteers for their work on the breakfast as well. Barbara Watson discussed the expenses, revenue and outstanding bills. Kathryn Bonifiglio reported on the funds raised for the Schools METCO support fund.

4. **One Book One Belmont, Request that Human Rights Commission co-sponsor again this year**

Carl moved that HRC co-sponsor One Book One Belmont again this year and the motion was approved. Fran and Kathryn shared possible events and programs set up with One Book One Belmont and their chairwoman Emily Reardon. She is interested in putting on

an upcoming panel on new immigrants in Belmont in April. Fran asked if anyone had any suggestions for immigrant panelists and asked if the Commission would consider moving or canceling our April meeting in order to help out with the OBOB event. Approved to co-sponsor OBOB again this year.

5. Upcoming Programs- Belmont

Sun. Jan 31st Beyond Ferguson discussion-

Captain Hoerr and Kathryn reported on an interest expressed by members of the discussion group to have members of the HRC attend meetings and to have Belmont students involved in the discussions. It was suggested that the high school students and liaisons on the Commission might explore beginning discussions on race at the high school.

Beyond Ferguson discussions are held the last Sunday of every month at Unitarian Universalist Church at 7pm. It was noted that members of the Youth Group at the UU have also been invited to the discussions.

Barbara reported on the progress Kathryn has made on the upcoming panel on Muslims in America that the Human Rights Commission is cosponsoring. Kathryn explained who the three panelists are. The panel will held on Thursday March 24th at Beth El Temple Center.

6. Liaison Reports:

Sarah Jane reported on the upcoming Make A Statement Day event at Belmont High School.

Seneca reported on Jamnesty, a concert organized by the BHS Amnesty Club on April 29th, proceeds will go to Syrian Refugee organization.

Captain Hoerr shared additional information on de-escalation. Kathryn and Barbara thanked Captain Hoerr for his work.

7. Other Reports

Kathryn reported on Waking Up in Oak Creek film from the Not In Our Town series, which is now available online.

Paul confirmed his doing the minutes for March.

8. The next Commission meeting will be on Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 7 PM.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Jane Henman