

2016 APR -8 PM 2:24



Belmont Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 3, 2016, 7 pm
Belmont Town Hall
Conference Room 1

The following were in attendance:

Members: Darren Bouwmeester, Carl Brauer, Sarah Jane Henman, Fran Yuan, Jirair Hovsepian, Seneca Hart and Barbara Watson

Liaisons:

Belmont Police Department: Captain J. Peter Hoerr

Belmont High School: Members Sarah Jane Henman and Seneca Hart

Belmont Against Racism: Natalie Stoller and Charlene O'Connor

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

- 1. Meeting minutes:** The Thursday, February 4 meeting minutes were approved, Upcoming meeting minute takers/phone line responders:
April- Jirair
May- Fran
June- Darren
September-Carl
October- Nan
- 2. Phone line and e-mail:** Sara Jane reported that there were no calls.
- 3. Referral from Belmont Against Racism.** Fran reported that, in response to a referral from Belmont Against Racism, she spoke to a resident about concerns that the resident had that she was experiencing racist behavior by a neighbor. They had a productive discussion.
- 4. March 24th Program on Muslims in America, Thursday, 7:30 pm, Beth El Temple Center. Co-sponsored by the Human Rights Commission.** Members are asked to attend and several members will donate refreshments.
- 5. 101st Anniversary Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide Proclamation.** A motion was made and approved that the Human Rights Commission request a Proclamation from the Board of Selectmen in honor of the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide of 1905. A discussion ensued about what we have learned from this event and how these lessons are applicable today. Jirair observed that the Middle East and Europe generously welcomed Armenians. Barbara will write to the Selectmen to request the proclamation.
- 6. One Book One Belmont (OBOB)(The Boston Girl, Anita Diamant author, Author to speak Tuesday, April 26).** In lieu of the Commission's Thursday, April 7 meeting, the Commission will staff the OBOB Immigration Panel which will take at the Belmont Public Library. **Co-sponsored by the Human Rights Commission.** All members are asked to attend. Members will also bring refreshments.

7. **A Path Appears.** Carl reported that the Jimmy Tingle fundraising event is going forward and it will benefit Belmont METCO fund, the Food Pantry and Bristol Lodge.

8. **Other Reports:**

Jia is attending a Teen Empowerment event on race this evening in Boston with BAR's Kathryn Bonfiglio.

Sarah Jane reported that BHS's Working to Help the Homeless Club would be hosting a coffee house to benefit the Harvard Square youth shelter Y2Y on March 11.

Seneca reported that she spoke to teacher Ms. Garschina about the possibility of a Beyond Ferguson race discussion group at BHS but Ms. Garschina suggested that the Beyond Ferguson group was hoping to get students to participate in the UU discussion group. Seneca also reminded the group about Jamnesty, a concert organized by the BHS Amnesty Club to be held on April 29th, proceeds will go to Syrian Refugee organization.

Fran reported that she has been arranging for at least one member of the Commission to attend the Beyond Ferguson discussions at the UU Church.

Captain Hoerr pointed out some additional materials on de-escalation.

Charlene reminded people about the opportunity to hear about Youth Build at Kathryn's House later in the month.

Barbara reported on a workshop she attended, sponsored by the Justice Department, about the School to Prison Pipeline.

9. On **Thursday, April 7, 2016**, Commission members will attend the Immigration Panel at the Belmont Library. The next Commission meeting will be on **Thursday, May 5, 2016** at 7 pm.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Watson