

Belmont Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 7, 2016
Town Hall, Room 1, 7 pm

2016 MAY 25 AM 9:08

The following were in attendance:

Members: Darren Bouwmeester, Nan Donald, Carl Brauer, Fran Yuan, Jirair Hovsepian, Mirela Duda and Barbara Watson

Liaisons:

Belmont Police Department: Captain J. Peter Hoerr

Belmont High School: Jia Zhang

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

- 1. Meeting minutes:** The Thursday, March 3, 2016 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with minor changes.
- 2. Phone line and e-mail:** Barbara reported that there were no calls except that a representative from the Belmont Housing Trust will attend the May meeting.
- 3. Upcoming meeting minute takers/phone line responders:**
May- Fran
June- Darren
September-Carl
October- Nan
- 4.** Fran reported, as a follow-up to the conversations held in conjunction with the Laramie Project at BHS, that conversations have been held with teachers. There are particular concerns about the climate for LGBTQ students and teachers at the Chenery. A group, including parents, will approach the Superintendent about the issues.
- 5.** Fran reported about the "Stand Up Campaign" meeting, about civility, politeness and being respectful. A group will form to continue the campaign and how to go about it.
- 6.** It was reported that the March 4, 2016 panel discussion "Muslims in America" at Beth El Temple was very successful and well attended.
- 7.** Jirair reported that the Board of Selectmen, at the request of the Belmont Human Rights Commission, will be issuing a Proclamation commemorating the 101st Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915, at the Selectmen's Meeting Room on April 11, 2016.
- 8.** The **One Book One Belmont** Immigration Panel which was scheduled for April 29, 2016, has been postponed to a later date.
- 9. A Path Appears.** Carl reported that the Jimmy Tingle Belmont community fundraising event to benefit the Belmont METCO fund, the Food Pantry and Bristol Lodge is going forward as planned. Tickets are \$30 at the door or online at <http://jimmytingle.com/> or <http://apathappearsinbelmont.webs.com>.
- 10.** Fran reported about a Film Festival on Human Rights centered films about human conditions, to be held on Saturday, April 16, at 10am-12pm; Sunday, April 17, at 10am-9:45pm; and Monday, April 18, during the daytime.
- 11.** There was a discussion on the next MLK Breakfast which will be celebrated on Monday, January 16, 2017. Fran provided biographies of a number of potential speakers and additional names were suggested. Nan moved and, it was accepted, to pursue Boston City Councilor Ayanna Pressley as the keynote speaker.
- 12.** Captain J. Peter Hoerr reported about the rumors that anti-freeze was poured at a Town park. He reported that the rumors were investigated and determined to be not

substantiated. He also discussed Qualified Immunity and how it protects law enforcement officers and government workers.

13. Jia reported on attending a Boston event on Urban/Suburban Race Dialogue with Kathryn Bonifiglio.

14. Nan informed us that a former BHRC member Trish Lohmar passed away on February 25, 2016. Members acknowledged Trish's contributions to the community.

The next Commission meeting will be on **Thursday, May 5, 2016** at 7 pm..

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jirair Hovsepian