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Belmont Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Belmont Town Hall, Room 1

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:10 pm.

The following were in attendance:

HRC Members: Fran Yuan, Carl Brauer, Paul Solomon, Anthony Moroso, Nan Donald, Seneca Hart and Barbara Watson

Belmont Police Department Liaison: Captain J. Peter Hoerr

Belmont Against Racism Liaison: Kathryn Bonfiglio and Charlene O'Connor

1. Minutes from the Thursday, December 1, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved. Seneca reported that a couple of emails were received. A new couple to the Town emailed regarding how they could get more involved with the BHRC, email was forwarded to Barbara Watson to follow-up. RSVP emails regarding the MLK Breakfast were received.
2. The phone line/e-mail assignments and minute takers for the upcoming meetings are as follows:

January-	Jirair
February -	Tony
March-	Paul
April-	Fran
May-	Carl
June-	Nan
3. With Jirair absent, Tony agreed to record the Meeting Minutes for January.
4. Barbara, per the Town Clerk's presentation, recommended that BHRC members create separate emails solely for BHRC correspondence.

5. There was a review of updates and assignments on the MLK Breakfast to be held on January 16, 2017, 8:30/9 am-11 am, Belmont High School
 - a. A draft agenda of the MLK Breakfast was distributed to all present. A discussion regarding speaking time allotments followed.
 - b. Kathryn spoke about possibly adding another female to the METCO Panel.
 - c. The Friday preceding the MLK Breakfast tables will be delivered to the high school, set up of the cafeteria will happen the following Sunday between 4 -6 p.m. Around 7 a.m. on the day of the event Mirela and any other BHRC members will begin plating food. Fran will make signs/name cards to be displayed in front of the panelists. Nan will circle back with Pastor Amos Jean Philippe of the Belmont Haitian Community Church of God regarding his invocation time allotment (approximately 2 minutes). Dorothy Stoneman, Founder of YouthBuild, Belmont High School graduate, will speak with panel of METCO (Boston and Belmont) participants (50th Anniversary of METCO). Dorothy will speak and then will moderate the panel. The presentations and questions will likely take an hour this year. Carl and Paul will help pick up donations like last year. Seneca and Jia will run the childcare/children's activities sign in table and possibly preregistration.
 - d. A supervisor for childcare is still needed.
 - e. Members agreed on a final song for the event, America the Beautiful.
 - f. The Belmont Police Department will be collecting children's winter clothing during the MLK Breakfast.
6. Barbara spoke about her being contacted by members from the V-Day Belmont event, and their request to hand out flyers during the MLK Breakfast and BHRC co-sponsorship. BHRC members voted unanimously to co-sponsor the event and to allow V-Day organizers to hand out flyers during the MLK Breakfast so long as they were appropriate for the family environment.
7. Barbara discussed having a bulletin board at the MLK Breakfast that would display flyers/posters for BHRC sponsored/co-sponsored events.
8. Fran discussed the Belmont Public Library's film series regarding refugees. BHRC voted unanimously to co-sponsor the event.
9. Tony discussed his interest in representing the BHRC on the BOS Task Force/Committee to evaluate and implement the Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Law. Members agreed to table a vote on the matter.
10. Fran and Carl reported on their attendance at the Chris Tebbetts event at the Chenery Middle School. The event was different than what they expected as the author focused more on his career, however Fran and Carl were impressed with the questions from the middle school students and how well informed they were.

11. Liaison Reports:

Belmont Police Department: Captain Hoerr offered to speak about the recent 60 Minutes piece

featuring the Chicago Police Department. It was agreed for the sake of time that he would do so at the February meeting.

Belmont High School: Seneca spoke about overhearing one BHS student yell to a METCO student to "go home." Seneca said she did not directly witness the event and believed the student that yelled the comment was also a METCO student and thus the comment was not derogatory.

Belmont Against Racism: Kathryn spoke about how well attended and received the Hands Around The Pond event was. She noted that she met a Chinese-American woman who wanted to get more involved with BAR. Additionally, the woman noted she knew of families that may have issues that may be of relevancy to BAR. Kathryn provided the woman with BAR's contact information and awaits her follow-up contact.

12. The date of the Commission's February Meeting was confirmed, **Thursday, February 2, 2017, 7 pm.**
13. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Moroso