



RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

2017 MAY 12 PM 2:08

**Belmont Human Rights Commission
Thursday, February 2, 2017
Belmont Town Hall, Room 1**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:04 pm.

The following were in attendance:

HRC Members: Carl Brauer, Nan Donald, Mirela Duda, Jirair Hovsepian, Paul Solomon, Fran Yuan and Barbara Watson
Belmont Police Department Liaison: Captain J. Peter Hoerr
Belmont Against Racism Liaison: Kathryn Bonfiglio and Charlene O'Connor
Guests: Jeff Hansell, Belmont Media Center Executive Director
Representative Dave Rogers

1. Minutes from the Thursday, January 5, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved with minor changes.
2. Daniel Vernick suggested via email that Belmont consider becoming a sanctuary town. In addition, a citizen shared the Winchester human rights statement. In response, Barbara forwarded the Board of Selectman's Hands Around the Pond December proclamation. The Stand Up Campaign and Belmont Against Racism enlarged the Proclamation for display and Barbara Watson will contact the Town Administrator's Office about possibly displaying the proclamation at Town Hall.
3. The phone line/e-mail assignments and minute takers for the upcoming meetings are as follows:
February - Tony/phone line, Jirair/minute taker
March- Paul
April- Fran
May- Carl
June- Nan
4. Jirair reported that there were numerous phone and email messages in January making reservations for the MLK Breakfast and that he forwarded them to Barbara for efficiency.
5. The Attorney General's Civil Rights Division will be making a presentation about the Division's work, with question and answers on March 2, 2017, 7pm at the Belmont Public Library Assembly Room. In response to the Division's request, it was suggested that the panel be prepared to answer questions on the new protections for gender identity in public accommodations, immigration and the hate crime hotline.
6. Captain Hoerr discussed the "60 Minutes" report that with the decrease in stops (which the police are mandated to do) there was an increase in crime, regarding the Chicago Police stops, and that crimes and arrests are related to the stops. He also mentioned the Department of Justice's scathing report on the use of excessive force. He handed out the police department's old and new Investigatory Stop

Report form of the Chicago Police Department for comparison and to show the complexity of the new form.

7. Review of the MLK Breakfast showed that it was successful. There was an email from the Town Administrator expressing the Board of Selectmen's interest in helping next year. The Office has been quite helping in publicizing the event on the website.

Guest Jeff Hansell suggested making the Breakfast more in line with a real breakfast and that he was willing to find a sponsor(s) for next year to cover the cost of the breakfast. Jeff also agreed for BMC to undertake the audio portion of the MLK next year. For next year, BMC will plan to use wireless cameras for better coverage of the event. Fran will talk to the Belmont School Department and the Watertown MLK committee to find out costs of an actual hot breakfast.

8. HRC will submit the annual report to the Office of the Board of Selectmen.

9. The Belmont Public Library will sponsor a series of films on refugees.

10. Belmont Against Racism: Kathryn reported that there will be an International Valentine Celebration on February 11, 2017, 12-2pm in the Assembly Room, there will be cold cuts, hummus/veggies and cookies. Planning for a Chinese-American woman to talk to BAR on refugee family issues. The Stand Up Campaign Bystander role playing workshop will be held on March 18, at the Beech Street Center.

11. Representative Dave Rogers stopped by and provided some information on pending legislation on Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) "Safe Community."

12. Captain Hoerr explained police practices relative to ICE in Belmont.

13. The Commission voted to request a Proclamation from the Belmont Board of Selectmen commemorating the 102nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

14. The next meeting on **Thursday, March 2, 2017, 7pm**, will be suspended and instead will be the presentation by the AG's Office, Sara Colb, Esq. and D'Andre Fernandez, Esq., at the Belmont Public Library, Assembly Room on the ground floor. The April meeting will be Thursday, April 6, 2017.

15. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jirair Hovsepian