

Belmont Human Rights Commission

2017 JUN -2 AM 9:05

Minutes, Meeting of May 4, 2017

Attendees: Barbara Watson, chair; Carl Brauer, Fran Yuan; Paul Solomon; Seneca Hart; Anthony Moroso; Jirair Hovsepian; Mirela Duda; Kathryn Bonfiglio, BAR; Capt. J. Peter Hoerr, Belmont Police Department

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05
2. Minutes of April 6 meeting approved pending corrections of typos by Fran.
3. Fran reported no calls on hot-line for April; Carl will cover hot-line in May, Nan in June, Mirela in July, Seneca in August.
4. Organization: Barbara is taking a break and is stepping down as chair. Tony Moroso agreed to succeed. He was nominated by Paul, seconded by Carl, and unanimously voted chairman. Tony will chair the June 1 meeting.
5. Organization: Jerry's three-year term is expiring and he has informed BOS that he does not wish to be reappointed. Barbara's three-year term is also expiring but she has not decided about serving another term. She hopes to remain involved in the MLK Breakfast.
6. Tony sent around a draft document on outreach to current members that he will submit to the BOS, BAR, Belmont Religious Council, and Belmont Citizen-Herald. There were a few suggestions and edits made to Tony. He would appreciate getting suggestions in writing soon because the BOS will presumably make appointments over the summer.
7. Fran and Tony will collaborate on drafting forms for complaints received by HRC.
8. Barbara will represent BHRC at Town Meeting in support of the "Welcoming Town Petition." It is hoped that the BOS proclamation at the "Hands Around the Pond" event will be displayed at the entrance to Town Meeting.
9. Fran spoke about recently hearing a panel about Homeless LGBTQ Youth in Greater Boston. BHRC voted unanimously to co-sponsor a panel on this subject at the Belmont Public Library on May 30.
10. Town Day is May 20. BAR is sponsoring a table. BHRC will be at this table. Fran is looking for volunteers from BHRC to help greet residents and provide information.
11. Barbara asked whether BAR wanted the MLK Breakfast back. Kathryn said it did not, that it was important that the breakfast is sponsored by an appointed Town Committee, which BAR is not. Carl noted that following last year's breakfast, David Kale said that the BOS wished to be a co-sponsor in the future. There was a discussion of previous speakers at the breakfast and a discussion of possible speakers for the next breakfast, including Ayanna Pressley and Michelle Wu. It was noted that speakers from the public sector do not usually expect a speaking fee, in contrast to speakers from the private sector.
12. Kathryn reported on BAR's recent sponsorships of programs on the criminal justice system and sentencing reform; on METCO-related programs and activities, including the annual Mother's Day March for Peace in Dorchester; the on-going post Ferguson discussions at the Unitarian Church.

13. Captain Hoerr reported that the Welcoming Petition reflects what Belmont Police practices currently are. He discussed a pending case before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court relating to ICE detainees. He also reported from news reports about the US Department of Justice's recent and very different dispositions of investigations into fatal shootings of a black man during incidents in South Carolina and Louisiana.
14. Seneca reported that the BHS English Department is working on diversifying "women's voices" in its curriculum.
15. Fran noted that the annual Pride Parade in Boston is June 10.
16. Carl noted that he had recently seen "13th" an outstanding Netflix documentary about the high rate of incarceration in the United States. A few members were interested in whether BHRC should sponsor a public screening of the film.
17. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. Barbara received a warm round of applause in thanks for her long and effective service as chair.

Submitted by Carl Brauer, recording secretary for this meeting