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April 13 2011 Meeting Minutes

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes – Final April 13, 2011

Present: Sheri Baron, Marliisa Briggett, Christine Carney, Gary Horowitz, Jorge Loayza, Nick Minton, Chair Nancy Rhoads, Marlene Schultz, Bill Shea

Absent: Vita Cohen, Vice Chair Stacy Davison, Nancy Sweeney, Suzie Talukdar

Open Forum –

Chair Rhoads reported on an incident at the high school. Mr. Pereira, director of METCO, brought it before the Superintendent's Diversity Advocate meeting and Commissioner Sweeney forwarded the information to Chair Rhoads, who turned it over to Commissioners Davison and Baron.

Commissioner Baron reported on her meeting with Principal Skidmore and Superintendent Bodie. She and Commissioner Davison restated our mandate to support the schools around issues involving human rights.

Chair Rhoads reported that the incident was discussed at the Community Response Team meeting, revisiting the commitment of the group to bringing human rights issues to the attention of the AHRC. At the next CRT meeting there will be clarification about what sorts of incidents would rise to that level.

After much discussion the Chair reinforced that the AHRC is mandated to work with the schools, thanked Mr. Pereira for coming to speak with us and assured him of AHRC support.

The Commission will continue their efforts to work more closely with the school department and try to be more involved and helpful with these concerns. There will be an AHRC representation at the Dimock Street Parent meeting on May 2nd.

Review of February Minutes – Minutes accepted as amended

Incidents and Complaints –

Texting – inappropriate texting - see report of Open Forum above

High School incident – dismissed

Graffiti – bench vandaliam - dismissed

Stand Against Racism – the AHRC will not participate in the program this year

Report on March Training

Commissioners Briggett, Carney and Sweeney were pleased with the turnout for the Wall of Silence Training. A listing will be made of all who were trained for future reference.

Report on Community Service Group meeting

Chair Rhoads was pleased with the turnout for the meeting with Regina Caines. It was suggested that we have a liaison for each group. Christine Carney will serve as the AHRC liaison and chair the meetings.

Budget – A move was made and accepted to pay Mr. Brown and Ms Caines for facilitating the recent events with the AHRC

Goal Setting

Due to the lateness of the evening, the long and short term goals discussions will be revisited in May.

Other Business –

Commissioner Baron volunteered to give a report to Town Meeting on what the Commission has done this year and of our goals and objectives.

Motion to adjourn was made and approved.

Submitted by:

Marylynn Carnell

Staff Assistant