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June 16 2011 Meeting Minutes

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes – Draft June 16, 2011

Present: Sheri Baron, Christine Carney, Stacy Davison, Gary Horowitz, Chair Nancy Rhoads, Bill Shea, Nancy Sweeney, Suzie Talukdar

Guest: Robert Varghese **Absent:** Marlissa Briggett, Vita Cohen, Jorge Loayza, Nick Minton, **Review of May Minutes** – Minutes accepted as amended **Open Forum** –

Mary Ellen DiNatalie, The Arlington Community Education Program, a self-sustaining program, came to publicize two potential events to be held in the Fall: “*Medford and the African American Experience*” and “*Kecia Ali interviewed by David Whitford.*” She gave a brief description of the programs and is seeking the AHRC to lend their name as a co-sponsor for these events. Chair Rhoads will get back to her with the HRC decision. *(A motion was made and accepted: “that the Human Rights Commission will lend their name as a partner with the Arlington Community Education Program for the 2011 Fall programs # 1&2.”)*

Incidents and Complaints –No report this month – Chair Rhoads will continue to follow up with Supt. Bodie on May report.

Community Service Group update

The NAACP is trying to revitalize their program – Commissioners are continuing to work with their respective groups. Chair Rhoads will follow up with Ms. Weiner and Ms. Caines. Commissioners Baron and Carney will work with Personnel. Commissioners Sweeney and Talukdah are working with the Diversity Task Group - reports to follow.

Rapid Response Group update

There is a meeting next week to deal with protocol, whose doing what, and what type of responses should be made as the menu of issues is developed.

Town Meeting Presentation report

Commissioner Baron made a presentation to Town Meeting last night (June 15th) explaining the work of the AHRC and requested Town Meeting members to spread the word on our behalf and to let people know how to get in touch with the Commission whenever the opportunity arises. She was pleased with the response.

Town Day –

It was decided to have only one table, preferably near the Court Street area for this year's Town Day on September 17th. The format will be the same as last year with the penny quiz and gift certificates.

Goal Setting - Sub-committee formation

Sub groups will be set up and each group will develop a goal – a work in progress

Community Outreach –

(Chair for Commission, Interfaith Group, Rapid Response Schools –

(Metco, Diversity Task Force, Ottoson Building Respect, Principals)

Policies and Procedures –

(Revue as needed, Town Counsel)

Responsibilities of the Chair –

(Set the agenda for monthly meetings, maintain communication with the police, etc., mediate with a three person team based on each incident)

After much discussion it was decided that Chair Rhoads will set up sub-committees and suggested responsibilities for each group for the next meeting.

Other Business – Our website is under construction.

Commissioner Baron would like that the AHRC name be added to the entranceway post of Robbins House Rear to let people know that is our home base and where we can be reached when needed. She will speak with Phyllis Brown.

Chair Rhoads has followed up with Chief Ryan on Data Collection – report to follow – Chief Ryan has been asked to participate in a study on immigrants and refugees.

There is an opening on the Commission for a new member under the direction of the Town Manager.

Chair Rhoads will try to schedule an appearance for the July 20th Selectmen's meeting.

Because of scheduling conflicts – the July monthly meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday July 27th at Robbins House.

Motion to adjourn was made and approved. Submitted by: Marylynn Carnell

Staff Assistant