



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

June 17 2010 Meeting Minutes

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes – Final June 17, 2010

Present: Sheri Baron, Vita Cohen, Vice Chair Stacy Davison, Jorge Loayza, Nick Minton, Chair Nancy Rhoads

Absent: Marlissa Briggett, Christine Carney, Gary Horowitz, Marlene Schultz, Bill Shea, Nancy Sweeney, Suzie Talukdar

Guests: Jane Howard and Miriam Stein, Vision 2020 Diversity Task Group members

Open Forum: No guests this evening.

Joint Meeting with Diversity Task Group: Jane Howard and Miriam Stein from the Vision 2020 Diversity Task Group joined us to talk about their goals, our goals and how we could work collaboratively on projects.

The various appointing bodies for the AHRC were discussed and the need was identified to update the Annual Report to accurately reflect these appointing bodies.

Commissioner Rhoads discussed the purpose of the AHRC and summarized recent complaints.

Commissioner Rhoads shared with the group the recent school-based initiatives the AHRC has undertaken, including APS Leadership Training to be held 8/25 or 8/26. The training will be led by Richard Cole, Esq., and approximately 30 people will participate, including principals, assistant principals, department heads, police officers and AHRC member/s. The AHRC is contributing \$1,000 for this training. The goals of the training are to help participants (1) Distinguish between bullying, harassment and criminal activity, (2) Investigate incidents, (3) Respond effectively to incidents, and (4) Communicate to constituencies when incidents arise.

The possibility of a dialogue for parents in the fall with Richard Cole was discussed.

The school-wide assembly at the Ottoson Middle School led by Michael Fowlin on June 10, 2010.

The Ottoson Middle School's 2010-2011 participation in the ADL's A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE Institute Peer Training Program.

Jane Howard and Miriam Stein presented the purpose and goals of the Diversity Task Group and shared projects they have worked on this year, including:

Organized and ran Disability/Diversity Job Fair – 320 attendees for the full-day event

Actively involved in the Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee

Helped establish a Facebook page called Residents of the Town of Arlington Mass. Currently there are 400 fans. Ms. Stein informed the group that the AHRC can post diversity-related issues and events on the page. They need to go through the contact

person at the Diversity Task Group.

Undertook effort to increase the diversity of Town Meeting members by encouraging write-in candidates and now following up with these candidates.

Participated in this year's book selection for the Community Book Read: *Marcello in the Real World*. Commissioner Rhoads suggested reaching out to SEPAC about this project.

Opportunities for collaboration between the AHRC and the Diversity Task Group were discussed, including:

An idea was raised to establish an Outreach Subcommittee at the AHRC and have this committee work with the Diversity Task Group to increase diversity in town groups and committees.

Immigrant speaker series fashioned after one that the Town of Watertown does called "Know Your Neighbors."

Future Stand Against Racism initiatives. Commissioner Rhoads expressed concern about the AHRC's ability to commit time and resources to future Stand activities.

Commissioner Rhoads presented an idea to conduct community-wide diversity awareness trainings for athletics, Boys' and Girls' Club, Fidelity House, pediatricians, health specialists, school and town librarians, special education groups, youth groups, etc. She mentioned some preliminary grant funding research she has done and identified potential grant providers (e.g. Walgreens, CVS, etc.). Other potential funders were identified: Mirak, Leader Bank, MLK Committee.

Review of May Minutes: There was not a quorum.

Subcommittee Reports: No subcommittee reports were given.

Other business: No other business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:
Stacy Davison
Vice Chair