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September 15 2010 Meeting Minutes

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes – Final September 15, 2010

Present: Marlissa Briggett, Christine Carney, Vita Cohen, Vice Chair Stacy Davison, Gary Horowitz, Nick Minton, Chair Nancy Rhoads, Marlene Schultz

Absent: Sheri Baron, Jorge Loayza, Bill Shea, Nancy Sweeney, Suzie Talukdar

Open Forum – No guests this evening

Follow up to August meeting in regard to Chapter 40B - The question is – does Chap. 40B benefit the developer more than the town and people buying into it. Arlington is overdeveloped but the issue statewide is what needs to be fixed. The main concern is will 40B be done away with and will it lead to the erosion of local control. Though housing is part of our mission it is not a direct discrimination issue but more a diversity issue. AHRC would be breaking new ground to take a side on this issue. A motion was made that we vote on our participation if it's appropriate to sign on. Does it come under our purview? After much discussion a motion was made to sign on to support Chapter 40B, the #2 ballot question, with a 'no' vote to protect affordable housing. (Vote 8 yes, 1 no.) Chair Rhoads will call Carol Marine with our decision.

Review of August Minutes – Minutes accepted.

Town Day – Members continue to sign-up for a time convenient for them to tend the HRC tables at Town Day on Saturday, September 25th. Vice Chair Davison is working on questionnaire for a drawing for a gift certificate from one of four restaurants in town for those who participate. Commissioner Carney is working with children interests. Supplies and tables are in order.

Review of Subcommittees –

Schools – Richard Cole is working with the schools in regard to the bully-training program. Commissioner Cohen reported that it was a very good presentation but not sure how to implement the paper work. The big picture is that people will be thinking of the program but the day-to-day implementation may be challenging. The DSE has guidelines to follow. The superintendent and principals attended and had good things to say about the program. The law requires this training.

Vice Chair Davison attended the ADL meeting at the Ottoson. Teachers and students were asked to apply to be trained. After 4 days of training these teachers and students will work with different groups/cliques/peers to make them aware of the bullying problem. There is also the need for parental education and faculty training as well and the program is not funded at this time (\$4,500).

Community Outreach – Chair Rhoads met with Joe Connolly, Recreation Director, regarding policies and procedures for the same training as the schools as to how to respond to these problematic issues.

Other Business –

Dialogue subcommittee meetings have been discontinued. A motion was made to start the monthly AHRC meetings at 7:30 and it was voted down – monthly meetings would continue to begin at 8:00 p.m.

Commissioner Sweeney has made arrangements to have an AHRC table at the library for the month of November.

Chair Rhoads has arranged for Chip Berlet to meet with Town leaders on November 4th at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Safety Building to discuss Civil Discourse. Letters of invitation will be mailed to all Town leadership.

Chair Rhoads compiled a board visual on how the ARHC may want to proceed in the future. She spoke of having a facilitator to work with us on how to think about things and to help us to focus and reorganize. The question of where do we go from here and how do we achieve our goals of being a more welcoming community. A list of suggestions has been compiled and will be distributed to all commissioners.

Motion to adjourn was made and approved.

*Submitted by:
Marylynn Carnell
Staff Assistant*