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December 16 2009 Meeting Minutes

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes – Final December 16, 2009

Present: Sheri Baron, Marliisa Briggett, Christine Carney, Vice Chair, Vita Cohen, Stacy Davison, Jorge Loayza, Chair Nick Minton, Judson Pierce, Nancy Rhoads, Marlene Schultz, Bill Shea, Nancy Sweeney

Absent: None

Open Forum – Our guest this evening was Jill Lewis who came to invite us to sponsor a town event for a YWCA project titled, “Stand Against Racism.” This will be a nation wide undertaking scheduled for May 1st and 2nd. She suggested that as a group effort with a coordinator, the HRC would be an effective sponsor for this event. Other related groups will be invited to work with the HRC. There is a scheduled plan for each month leading up to the event, which should start in January, etc. Vice Chair Cohen asked where she heard of us and was pleased to know it was from the recent Rapid Response mailing. Commissioner Baron suggested a steering committee be formed and discussion followed as to how to proceed. Ms. Lewis agreed to chair the steering committee. Meeting space will be booked for January 13th with a letter for mailing January 4th. A motion was made and seconded: “That the Arlington Human Rights Commission will partake in the “*Stand Against Racism.*” Chair Minton thanked her for coming this evening and for bringing this information before us.

Review of October/November Minutes – Minutes for October accepted and Notes accepted for unofficial meeting of November 18th where there was no quorum.

Incidents and Complaints –

Commissioner Briggett followed up the Mirak Chevrolet complaint. The reported party thanked her for her help but had already filed a report to MCAD.

Subcommittee Reports –

Dialogues

As a follow up to the November Open Forum regarding census information – it was decided to invite a representative to set up a table with information for the public to view at our February 4th Dialogue on Church and State. Commissioner Rhoads moved: “*That the AHRC establish a partnership with the 2010 National Census.*” Chair Minton will call Nasad DeJanis and inform her of the Commission’s decision to participate.

The Separation of Church and State Dialogue - scheduled for Thursday, February 4th at Robbins Community Room is still a work in progress. Commissioners Sweeney and Shea will meet with Mr. Leone to ask him to participate in this discussion.

Commissioner Pierce suggested the topic revolve around the legal issues that impact Arlington such as the handling of religious holidays, etc. More suggestions were discussed. Plans are still being worked out.

Schools – Commissioners Davison and Sweeney plan to speak with the Middle School Principal to ask what we as a commission can do to help with bullying concerns. These plans are a work in progress.

Policies and Procedures – no report at this time

Rapid Response/Publicity – Results of mailing request:

- 70 letters mailed
- 3 returned as non-deliverable address
- 32 returned with information updated
- 55 e-mails sent
- 13 returned as wrong address
- Calls will be made to those returned for updated information

Other Business –

- **Martin Luther King** – Motion: “*That we be a sponsor every year to the Annual Martin Luther King Celebration*” – accepted by eleven members with one abstention.
- Still no word on **AHRC vacancy**
- **2010 Chair** – Commissioner Rhoads accepted to be Chair and Stacy Davison accepted to be Vice Chair for 2010 – decision to accept these candidates was unanimous. Thanks were given to Chair Minton for his years of service to the Commission.
- Calendar for 2010 was distributed with the monthly mailing.

Motion to adjourn was made and approved.

Submitted by:

Marylynn Carnell

Staff Assistant