



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

**webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us**

## January 16 2008 Meeting Minutes

### Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes - Final January 16, 2008

**In Attendance:** Marlissa Briggett, Christine Carney, Vita Cohen, Joseph Curro (Chair), Christine Deshler, Jorge Loayza, A. Nick Minton, Marlene Schultz, William Shea, Nancy Sweeney

**Absent:** Sheri Baron, Mahendra Desai, Nancy Rhoads (Vice-Chair)

**Citizens Open Forum** – Barbara Jones, Disabilities Commission, would like to come to discuss the Arlington Advocate article regarding traffic signals along Summer Street, Rt. 2A – Signals have been stuffed with a foam matter to eliminate the sound that is bothersome to area neighbors. Chair Curro spoke with Chief Ryan about this matter. Ms. Jones has been scheduled to come to our February meeting.

**Review of December Minutes** – Commissioner Carney made a motion to approve minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Deshler, four abstained.

**Race and Place Dialogue** – Laura Weiner is looking for reps from each commission to work with her on Race and Place series – Commissioners Carney and Minton volunteered to represent AHRC at a planning meeting.

#### **Networks and Coalitions** –

**NPFH** – has been renamed “Arlington Common Threads.” Because of low response to invitation to joint meeting on 11/23 - it was suggested to reschedule meeting for our regular monthly meeting on 2/20 at Jefferson Cutter House. Commissioner Cohen will ask if this is workable at the next ACT meeting.

**MAHRC** – details forthcoming on upcoming program

**MLK** – reminder of annual event to be held 1/21 at the Town Hall – AHRC donation of \$50 has been sent.

**Brackett School** – reminder of Gay Parent Group event to be held 1/22 at 6:30pm.

#### **Incidents and Complaints** –

**12/29/07** - Pleasant Street, Boys & Girls Club, UU Church tagging being investigated by APD – Officer Gallagher working with high school students.

**1/01/08** - Foster Street/Rawson Road rage incident being investigated – Chief Ryan personally made referral to victim re: AHRC.

#### **Subcommittee Reports**

**Dialogues** – Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care Access will be held at Robbins House on 2/7 in cooperation with the Board of Health and League of Women Voters. Commissioners worked on details for this event.

**(Please turn over page)**

**Schools** – Chair Curro, Commissioners Sweeney and Deshler met with Principal Skidmore and reported that the January Open Forum human sexuality concerns are valid. Commissioner Sweeney will request a meeting with Abbey Holt, the GSAC High School advisor; Commissioner Deshler again suggested a listing of student reading requirements. Chair Curro will send thank you note to Principal Skidmore.

**Policies and Procedures** – no report this month.

**Rapid Response/Publicity** - Commissioner Baron related to a note she wrote regarding the AHRC Rapid Response program already in effect.

**Other Business** -

Kathy Fennelly, Robbins Librarian, met with AHRC tonight before our regular meeting for discussion of "To Kill A Mockingbird."

Chair Curro expressed his apologies to Marlene Schultz for the omission of her name on the Town mailing insert.

Chair Curro reminded commissioners of Arlington Advocate notice from Town Moderator, John Leone, requesting all commissioners to update him on their appointments and expiration dates.

Chair Curro related his inability to continue to chair the AHRC due to work and family commitments. The Commissioners expressed their thanks to him for all the time and energy he has so generously given this past year and for dealing with the many serious issues so graciously. Chair Curro thanked Nancy Rhoads for her Co-Chair efforts this year.

After much discussion it was decided that the AHRC would share the responsibilities for 2008/09. The Commissioners unanimously elected Nick Minton as Chair, Vita Cohen as Vice Chair. Commissioner Shea will be the APD liaison, Commissioner Sweeney will be the liaison for the School Department and Commissioner Carney will work as Clerk. Vita made a motion of accept the nominations and Christine Deshler seconded. Congratulations and best wishes to all.

Motion made by Commissioner Carney to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cohen seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

*Prepared and submitted by:  
Marylynn Carnell  
Staff Assistant*