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August 20 2008 Meeting Minutes

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes - Final August 20, 2008

Present: Sheri Baron, Christine Carney, Vice Chair, Vita Cohen, Christine Deshler, Chair, Nick Minton, Nancy Rhoads, Nancy Sweeney

Absent: Marlissa Briggett, Jorge Loayza, Marlene Schultz, Bill Shea

Open Forum –

Barbara Boltz and Susan Lees (*Arlington United for Justice and Peace*) came before the commission requesting the AHRC to sign on to the pledge in support of program entitled: *Welcoming Mass: Immigrants Rights Initiative*. It is hopeful that this program will create awareness of the difficulties of immigrants, taking action to treat people fairly and change the emotional climate for immigrants. Chair Minton thanked the guests for coming and related that the Commission would follow up with their presentation later in the meeting.

Review of July Minutes – Commissioner Carney made a motion to accept the July Minutes as amended – motion seconded by Vice Chair Cohen – there were two abstentions.

Race and Place Dialogue Series Update – Commissioner Carney distributed a flyer with planned dates for dialogues – they will have a table at Town Day – a DVD from the library will be shown throughout the day – commissioners are invited to attend – AHRC previously agreed to co-sponsor this program.

Networks and Coalitions –

Arlington Common Threads update – (ACT) – no meeting this month.

MAHRC update – meetings discontinued for the summer.

Next meeting – Thursday, September 18th in Barnstable on Civil Rights issues.

(FYI – Candidates Night, 9/11 – voting day – Tuesday, 9/18)

Incident and Complaints –

Colonial Village incident – Steps on how to proceed and an offer of mediation were discussed – Commissioner Deshler moved to accept the finding of the subcommittee; seconded by Vice Chair, Cohen. A letter of mediation will be sent by regular mail and certified mail. Commissioners Deshler and Cohen will be the mediators. Commissioner Rhoads will finalize the report and forward it to all.

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Subcommittee Reports –

Dialogues –

Bullying Dialogue is set for December 3rd at Robbins Library.

Dialogue – January (*date to be announced*) – Commissioner Baron will contact Marie Raduazzo to discuss her presentation plans.

Dialogue on Disabilities – March 4th - too early to book for next calendar year.

Schools – Kathleen Bodie has been appointed as interim school superintendent.

Policies and Procedures – *no report this month*

Rapid Response/Publicity – Commissioner Baron requested R/R listing be updated.

Other Business –

Town Day - Sign up sheet was distributed – some time slots are still in need of coverage.

Commissioner Carney has made arrangements to run a video throughout the day. Commissioner Carney made a motion to purchase a \$100 gift certificate to be raffled off at Town Day – Commissioner Baron seconded the motion – motion accepted by all.

Commissioner Baron will pick up the new banner for Town Day.

New Appointments – Chair Minton has spoken with Christine Sharkey about applicants for Town Manager appointment, and to Joe Curro who will speak with the members of the School Committee about their commission openings that needs to be filled. Hopefully, these will be done by early Fall.

Welcoming Massachusetts: Immigrants Rights Initiative – After discussion regarding the request of the Open Forum this evening a motion was made and passed to endorse the program – Chair Minton will communicate with the Arlington United for Justice and Peace representatives that the AHRC will sign the pledge to endorse their program.

APD – Because of busy schedule, Chief Ryan cannot attend our meeting until October.

Chair Minton moved to adjourn. Commissioner Carney seconded. The meeting was concluded.

*Submitted by:
Marylynn Carnell
Staff Assistant*