



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

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Human Rights Commission Minutes 06/15/2006

In Attendance: Marliissa Briggett, Christine Carney, Victoria Cohen, Joseph Curro, Mahendra Desai, Nancy Rhoads, Nancy Sweeney

Absent:

Sheri Baron, Christine Deshler, Arif Khan, A. Nick Minton, Marlene Schultz, Bill Shea

Citizens Open Forum – AHS students revisited to update the commission of their progress and feelings of safety at the high school this past year – they expressed positive feelings of the principal for his no tolerance stand of racial and gang type issues – there are still issues to be resolved but they have found teachers more helpful, feel safer and much better about attending school this year - on the other hand a teacher also attended the meeting and told of his feelings on some of these issues and spoke of a graduation incident that was reported to him and feelings of disappointment from the school department but was pleased with the response of APD – they all gave much credit to Kate Cremens Basbas for the turn around of racial/diversity conditions at the high school –

Improving Connection with School System

The commissioners discussed the above issues and the decision was made that Nancy Rhoads will write letters to the families involved with the graduation incident to alert them that we know of the incident and that the commission is here for them if they wish to speak to us of their concerns and copies will be sent to selected school departments

SPOT Letter – reviewed with suggestions

Review of May Minutes - non quorum

Interim Decision Making – discussion - if an issue arises between meetings that need to be addressed - motion was made to give chair authority to support our mission – “If a decision has to be made before a regular meeting the chair should have the support of three (3) other members with a finance limit of \$400.” Approved.

Town Day – application will be submitted and plans tabled until next meeting.

Incidents and Complaints

A complaint was made to the commission but was referred to the Attorney General's office as a consumer rights issue.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Dialogues -

Vita Cohen spoke of her plans for the “Campaign for Understanding” meeting with local clergy to be held on June 28th at the Whittemore Robbins House.

Other Business – discussion of a neighborhood incident that a commissioner expressed concern about – no action taken at this time.

Prepared and submitted by:
Marylynn Carnell
Staff Assistant

