



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **AHRC Meeting Minutes 10/16/2013**

### **Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes**

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Senior Center – Conference Room

8:00 p.m.

Nancy Rhoads, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Marlissa Briggett, Kelly Bruneau (Admin), Christine Carney Ghandi Figlia, Sharon Grossman, Gary Horowitz, Nick Minton, and Nancy Rhoads (Vice Chair)

**Absent:** Sheri Baron, Stacy Davison, Mel Goldsipe, Jorge Loayza, and Robin Varghese (Chair)

**Citizen's Open Forum:** None.

**Correspondence received:** Several phone calls regarding the Food Pantry were received. R. Varghese responded to all calls and identified several sources that list the AHRC phone number for the Food Pantry. All sources were asked to change the number to Veteran's Services, which currently administers the Food Pantry.

**Meeting Dates for 2014:** Wednesday January 15, Wednesday February 12, Wednesday March 19, Thursday April 17, Thursday May 15, Thursday June 19, Wednesday July 16, Wednesday August 20, Wednesday, September 17, Wednesday October 15, Wednesday November 19 and Wednesday December 17. K. Bruneau (admin) will communicate these dates to Christine Bongiorno and she will reserve the Jefferson Cutter House.

#### **Subcommittee Reports:**

- **School Liaison Program:** S. Grossman stated that she e-mailed talking points to commissioners but if they were not received, a copy is located in the Dropbox file. Everyone might want to double check their spam folder for the e-mail. A chart to remind everyone of the school assignments can also be found in the Dropbox file. Liaisons should be set up to attend a staff, PTO or school council meeting by mid-January. N. Rhoads thought that R. Varghese had checked on the brochure stock and had the brochures at his home. The mailing address needs to be updated on the brochures and the AHRC needs a communal space to store supplies.
- **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/10 year anniversary of Marriage Equality/Bill Shea Every Day Hero Award:** The event will take place on May 4, 2014. C. Carney is playing phone tag with her contact.
- **Dialogues Schedule:**

**Miss Representation:** M. Briggett stated that the Miss Representation dialogue would take place in the spring of 2014. The film will be shown and followed by a parent education forum to discuss gender portrayal in the media and the effect on children. The dialogue will also be open to high school students. The need for a free event facilitator was discussed. Please let M. Briggett know if you are aware of anyone connected to the Arlington Community that might volunteer. In the meantime, M. Briggett will touch base with a high school teacher.

**Rescue in the Philippines:** C. Carney stated that the AHRC could rent the Regent Theater to screen Rescue in the Philippines for \$750.00, which is half of the standard rental rate. The Regent could do the ticketing for the film but would charge an additional fee. The theater holds 250 people. C. Carney will follow up with Arlington Community Education for a possible joint administration of the event. Marketing could be done outside of Arlington.

- **Massachusetts Association of Human Rights Commissions (MAHRC):**No commissioners attended.

#### **Finances review:**

- **Budget for Fiscal Year 2013:** K. Bruneau will follow up with Christine Bongiorno for information regarding the budget for fiscal year 2013.
- **Budget for Fiscal Year 2014:** K. Bruneau stated the current total of the revolving account was \$636.78. K. Bruneau will e-mail commissioners the total for the flat funded account.

#### **Augustminutes:**

- A motion was made by C. Carney to approve the September minutes as amended. M. Briggettseconded the motion. All present approved the minutes and the motion carried.

#### **Administrative Items:**

- **Rapid Response List:** The Rapid Response List is used when a major incident occurs in the town and there is a need to bring a group together to discuss the incident. The list consists of group chairs and leaders and/or a representative from each group including the Chief of Police, Selectmen Representative, AHRC chair or designee, Town Manager representative and local religious leaders. This group needs to meet every so often even when no incidences occur to keep dialogue open and have coordinated response to incidences. N. Rhoads will pull together a meeting. Should the AHRC ask people before they are placed on the list?
- **Mailing List:** The mailing list needs to be recreated from today and moving forward. The list from Town Day last year can be used as a starting place. Additionally, the Town Clerk already has a list of town meeting members and school committee members to use.
- **Police Information:** The AHRC needs to keep a database of incidents regardless of how small. Recently, the police have been hit or miss regarding sharing information with the AHRC. M. Briggett suggested that K. Bruneau call the Chief of Police the Monday before each AHRC meeting for an update. N. Rhoads will check with the Chief of Police regarding how the AHRC can obtain information regularly from the police at the Rapid Response meeting. R. Varghese has been e-mailing with the Chief of Police regarding attending an AHRC meeting.
- **Office Supplies:** The AHRC does not wish to set money aside for office supplies. If K. Bruneau is using a lot of supplies, she can let the Commission know and the issue will be discussed at that time.

**Incidents & Complaints:** G. DiFiglia stated that when searching for "Sicily History" in the Minuteman Library Network link from the Robbins Library webpage, the first 17 *very* relevant results were regarding the mafia. The relevant results were related to the broader history of Sicily. She stated that she got different results when searching directly from Minuteman Library Network webpage. G. DiFiglia will follow up with Robbins Library to find out how the algorithm for search results is created.

**Paratransit Program:**The paratransit program will begin in January 2014.

**New Chair for 2014:** The AHRC needs to elect a new chair in December and at that time, the current chair becomes Vice-Chair. N. Rhoads suggested that the ARHC come up with a system for an automatic rotation of chairs. An expectation should be set that new commissioners become chair within the first one to three years on the Commission. G. DiFiglia will check with the School Committee to see how they elect new chairs and then draft a procedure for the AHRC to be discussed at the next meeting. Once approved the new procedure will need to be included in the official procedures of the Commission.

**Bill Shea Memorial Library Dedication:** C. Carney stated that she has not yet received the wording for the book engraving. The dedication will take place on May 4, 2014.

**Book Donation in Honor of Nancy Sweeney:**C. Carneystated that she is playing phone tag with the library and will follow up again. She stated that the library does not want a book donation but possibly a monetary donation to purchase books.

#### **Website/Facebook/ Twitter:**

- **Webpage:**No update.
- **Facebook:**The AHRC discussed if they would endorse the bill or not and ultimately decided not to endorse anything political but still disseminate information regarding the bill. C. Carney will post a link to the non-discrimination in public accommodations for transgendered people bill as an FYI on the AHRC Facebook page.
- **Twitter:** No update.

**Outstanding Deliverables:**

- **FAQ's:**No update.
- **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary highlights of Commissions Activities:**No update.
- **Visits to Various Outside Organizations:** G. DiFiglia stated that she attended the International Day of Peace and that it was fairly well attended near Park Street Station in Boston. The event takes place on September 21<sup>st</sup> of every year and includes music and speeches.

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:25 pm by C. Carney. The motion was seconded by M. Briggett. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Submitted by:  
Kelly Bruneau  
Administrative Assistant