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AHRC Minutes 2/12/2014

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

Jefferson Cutter House-Lower Level Conference Room

8:00 p.m.

Christine Carney, Chair

Minutes

Members Present: Sheri Baron, Christine Carney (Chair,) Douglass Davidoff, Stacy Davison, Sharon Grossman, Gary Horowitz, Nick Minton, and Robin Varghese (Vice-Chair)

Members Absent: Marlissa Briggett, Ghanda DiFiglia, Mel Goldsipe, Jorge Loayza and Nancy Rhoads

Others Present: Kelly Bruneau (Admin,) Jill Maines (Social Work Student)

- **Citizen's Open Forum:** None
- **January Minutes:** G. Horowitz moved to accept the minutes as amended. S. Baron seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- **Subcommittee Reports:**
 - **School Liaison Program:** S. Grossman reported that Kathy Bodie requested a list of principals that Commissioners have been unable to reach. S. Grossman will e-mail Kathy Bodie the list.
 - **20th Anniversary/10 year anniversary of Marriage Equality/Bill Shea Every Day Hero Award – C.** Carney reported that the subcommittee has not met.
 - **Dialogues Schedule:**
 - i. Rescue in the Philippines:** C. Carney stated that *Rescue in the Philippines* will occur in the fall and will be removed from the agenda for now.
 - ii. Miss Representation:** C. Carney stated that the *Miss Representation* dialogue will take place on April 3rd at the Ottoson Middle School. The facilitator will be Jessica Greenstone for a fee of \$150.00. C. Carney will ask M. Briggett to e-mail the publicity flyer to Commissioners for distribution.
- **AHRC Brochure Update and Plans:** C. Carney reported that if M. Goldsipe cannot complete the brochure update, she will return the project to N. Rhoads. R. Varghese informed the Commission that Shawsheen Regional Technical High School will complete printing at cost.
- **Hopi Teacher to Run Boston Marathon:** C. Carney reported that arranging accommodations for the Hopi family has become too cumbersome and the family plans to make their own arrangements.
- **Administrative items:**
 - **Monthly update:** C. Carney reported that she received an e-mail from C. Bongiorno stating that the Commission would receive \$4500 funding for the next fiscal year and if the Commission wished to request additional funds, a presentation to the Finance Committee would need to be made. S. Baron moved to stay

with level funding of \$4500. G. Horowitz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

- **Review Rapid Response list & Mailing/Contact List:** S. Baron located the original Rapid Response list. J. Maines will work on consolidating the original and updated lists.

- **Incidents & Complaints:** No formal complaints were received. S. Davison reported that she and M. Goldsipe as the school liaison for Metco will meet with the Ottoson Middle School principal on February 25, 2014 to follow up on the Ottoson Building Respect Task Force receiving information about a drop in grades for Metco students partially related to racism. The Commission brainstormed ideas for how the Commission could be helpful in lieu of a formal complaint and concluded that the Commission could offer recommendations to the school for managing the racism. Discussion regarding the possibility of a formal complaint against a town body or office ensued. C. Carney will follow up with the town attorney to clarify the bylaws. Additionally, S. Davidson reported that she followed up with the Ottoson Middle School principal regarding the incident regarding racism and a home robbery of a Muslim student. The principal was not aware of the incident.
- **Book Donation in Honor of Nancy Sweeney:** C. Carney contacted an Assistant Librarian at the Robbins Library was provided with a shopping list of books related to human rights issues for the Commission to purchase. Some of the books are out of print and the library would accept used copies in good condition. None of the books are currently available in the Minuteman Network except for *The New Jim Crow*, which is in high demand. S. Davison will e-mail C. Carney the text for the book engraving. C. Carney will begin pricing out books at The Book Rack.

- **Website/Facebook Update:** C. Carney reported that she posted updates on the Facebook page including Conversations about Diversity and the date of the Commission meeting.
- **Outstanding Deliverables: -**
 - **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's):** C. Carney reported that the town attorney had a number of questions about the FAQ's and requested a meeting with C. Carney and R. Varghese to discuss. C. Carney will coordinate the meeting with the attorney. She will e-mail Commissioners the date of the meeting once scheduled to collect any additional questions Commissioners might have for the attorney.

G. Horowitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25pm. R. Varghese seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Submitted by:
Kelly Bruneau
Administrative Assistant