

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes

Thursday May 15, 2014

Members Present: Sheri Baron, Christine Carney (Chair,) Ghanda DiFiglia, Mel Goldsipe, Sharon Grossman, Jorge Loyozza, Nick Minton, Nancy Rhoads, and Robin Varghese (Vice-Chair)

Members Absent: Marlissa Briggett, Douglass Davidoff, Stacy Davison, Gary Horowitz,

Others Present: None

C. Carney called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM.

1. Citizen's Open Forum: None.

2. April Minutes: N. Minton made a motion to accept the minutes. S. Baron seconded the motion. Eight were in favor, one abstained and the motion carried.

3. Correspondence Received: C. Carney was in receipt of Kelly Bruneau's resignation. C. Carney will write a letter of appreciation for her work.

M. Goldsipe received an email from Margaret Thomas thanking the AHRC for its support of the METCO program.

4. Subcommittee Reports:

School Liaison Program Updates: N. Rhoads reported that she had a good meeting with Michael Hanna, Principal of Stratton Elementary School. He would like to expand the METCO program and host students at Stratton. He is feeling supported in doing so; the only hesitancy pertains to whether or not the increase in students would cause another classroom to be created. Discussion ensued about the AHRC hosting a dialogue about the METCO program.

G. DiFiglia reported that she would wait until the fall to try contacting the new principal at the Thompson Elementary School.

M. Goldsipe reported on a film recommended by Margaret Thomas, called "What Makes Me White." It was decided that the AHRC would purchase the film to show as part of a dialogue and then donate it to the school. M. Goldsipe made a motion to spend up to \$210 to purchase the film. S. Baron seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

LGBTQ Subcommittee: M. Goldsipe reports that Anna Watson will help with a needs assessment.

Superintendent's Diversity Task Group: N. Minton agreed to be the liaison.

5. Discuss Ideas to mark the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964: It was decided that the AHRC should write a guest article for *The Arlington Advocate*. C. Carney will approach other members not present for volunteers.

6. Marriage Equality Event Re-cap: Overall feeling was that the event was a success. At least 50 people attended. The Advocate reported the event on the editorial page in the current issue.

7. Administrative Assistant Job Opening: With K. Bruneau's resignation, all were encouraged to think about potential candidates for the position.

8. Budget Review: C. Carney reviewed the expenditures to date and those expected before the end of the fiscal year. Discussion ensued about financial needs for Town Day, including folding chairs, gift certificates, and free handouts (reusable grocery bags). S. Baron made a motion to encumber up to \$1200 for Town Day costs. M. Goldsipe seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

9. Incidents and Complaints: None.

10. Book donation in honor of Nancy Sweeney – Progress Update: C. Carney will make arrangements with Andrea Nicolay Robbins Library for making the donation. S. Baron will provide a write-up for *The Arlington Advocate*.

11. Update on Minutement Library Network – Ghanda DiFiglia: G. DiFiglia reported that she exchanged emails with Andrea Nicolay, of the Robbins Library, regarding the search results for "Sicily" being primarily books about the Mafia. Ms. Nicolay provided an explanation about the terms, "relevant" and "very relevant." This is based on metadata from the Library of Congress. She also explained that the algorithm is not something specific to Robbins Library, so they are not able to make changes to it. G. DiFiglia will write a follow-up letter to Ms. Nicolay on behalf of the AHRC.

12: Review 2001 Strategic Plan – Discuss updating/implementing: C. Carney and N. Rhoads will organize for the next meeting.

13. Review FAQs for website: C. Carney summarized the feedback received from Arlington's Town Counsel. A subgroup including G. DiFiglia, S. Baron, and C. Carney was formed to review and make revisions accordingly.

14. Community Updates/Happenings: No update

N. Minton made a motion to adjourn at 9:50pm. S. Grossman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Submitted by:
Nancy Rhoads