

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes
January 21, 2015

Present: Sheri Baron, Christine Carney (Chair), Stacey Davison, Marlissa Briggett, Mel Goldsipe, Gary Horowitz, Jorge Loayza, Bill Logan, Nick Minton

Absent: Douglas Davidoff, Sharon Grossman, Ghanda DiFiglia, Robin Varghese

Guest: Jackie Slivko, Arlington resident

The commissioners introduced themselves to Ms. Slivko who was present as an interested party to the LBGTQ survey.

The May minutes were accepted by all except that Ms. Davison, Ms. Goldsipe and Mr. Minton abstained.

Ms. Carney reported that Chief Ryan spoke to the patrol officer regarding the Brigham's incident that was reported last month. The young man was happy that Chief Ryan followed through with the patrol officer and does not want to go any further.

Mr. Horowitz reported that the joint subcommittee with commissioners and school committee members has met with respect to the issues raised concerning possible bias in the administration of discipline in the public schools. The subcommittee has requested specific information from the superintendent and expects to get that soon. The subcommittee is also preparing to meet with Superintendent Bodie and Mr. Harrington, who brought this issue to our attention. There was discussion regarding the type of information that had been requested, the level of specificity and the follow-through after obtaining the information.

Ms. Goldsipe reported on the progress of the Needs Assessment/Survey for the LBGTQ community. Ms. Slivko urged that the commission take a step back and ensure engagement with all the community groups for buy in prior to the survey being released. Ms. Slivko had specific suggestions with regard to the draft survey. She agreed to join the subcommittee to work on the draft before the next meeting.

The discussion surrounding the Diversity Task Group was tabled until next month.

Chair Carney called the commissioners attention to the warrant articles concerning the Arlington Human Rights Commission and urged commissioners to consider them for further discussion in February.

The Commission's co-sponsorship was requested for the Diversity Task Group's February 28th event, Race and Class Bias and the Criminal Justice System. Upon motion by Ms. Briggett, seconded by Ms. Goldsipe, the commission agreed to co-sponsor the event.

The 2015 schedule of Commission meetings will be the third Wednesday of each month, except in May and June when the Commission will meet on the third Thursday to avoid a conflict with town meeting.

Ms. Carney reminded commissioners to take the state ethics training course on line and to print out the certificate upon completion and deliver it to her.

Ms. Briggett volunteered to prepare the 2014 annual report.

Chair Carney indicated that with no current staff members, Commissioners would have to take on additional tasks. They are as follows:

Taking minutes and checking phone for messages:

February – Ms. Briggett

March – Ms. Davison

April – Ms. Goldsipe

May – Ms. Baron

In addition, Ms. Goldsipe agreed to be the liaison to True Story Theater. Mr. Logan agreed to be the liaisons to Menotomy Preschool and the Arlington Police Department.

Mr. Varghese has resigned from the Commission.

Motion to adjourn was made and approved.

Submitted by:
Marlissa Briggett
Commissioner