

**Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes-Final
February 17, 2016**

Present: Christine Carney (Chair), Mel Goldsipe, Sharon Grossman, Ghanda DiFiglia, Sheri Baron, Nick Minton, Yawa Degboe, Bill Logan, Chris Huvos

Absent: Jorge Loayza, Marlissa Briggett, Gary Horowitz

Guests: Duncan Vinson, Steve Revilak

Citizens' Open Forum:

Arlington resident, Steve Revilak, came before the Commission to express concern over Town Meeting Warrant Article 24 which will make camping on public property illegal without a permit issued by the Town. Mr. Revilak is concerned that this bylaw will, if passed by Town Meeting, will criminalize homelessness. There is a small population of homeless individuals who live on Town land in East Arlington, and Mr. Revilak is concerned that the bylaw is a tool to vacate the homeless rather than address the issue of homelessness in Arlington. The Commission agrees, and will reach out to the offices of Health & Human Services, the Board of Selectmen and Chief Fred Ryan. Commissioner Logan will contact the police to obtain police reports of any complaints or incidents as a result of the homeless population in East Arlington.

Minutes:

Commissioner Minton moved to accept the January 20, 2016 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grossman. The motion passed with 3 commissioners abstaining. Commissioner Baron was not present for the vote.

Commission Opening: The deadline for the commission opening appointed by the Town Manager has been extended to March 1. The Town Moderator has appointed Christopher Huvos to the Commission.

Correspondence: None received

Incidents & Complaints: None reported

LBGTQ Survey: Commissioner Goldsipe reported that 314 surveys have been completed online to date, and has compiled packets of hard copy surveys to be distributed to faith communities, libraries, Arlington Center for the Arts, etc. The survey will also continue to be shared on various social media outlets. Commissioner Goldsipe will submit the survey information to the Arlington Advocate for publication. There is some concern that the survey will not reach non-English speaking populations or people who do not have access to the internet. The cost for Survey Monkey to compile the data for one year is \$300.00. Commissioner Goldsipe will inquire with the Town Manager's office if the AHRC survey can be transferred to the Town's Survey Monkey account.

True Story Theater Collaboration: Commissioner Goldsipe met with Amber of True Story Theater and two high school seniors representing the Queer Mystic LGBTQA+ Youth Support Network to discuss collaboration for the Living Brochure project. Queer Mystic is interested in having an event in late June, and will speak to the rest of the youth advisory committee before committing to an event. One idea is to have an event open to the public where the youth could talk about their needs and meet local supporters.

Updating the AHRC Complaint Form: Commissioner Goldsipe has updated the complaint form so that it is ADA compliant. Commissioner Degboe made a motion to accept the new complaint form, Commissioner Logan seconded the motion, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Update on the Town Email Address for the Commission: Commissioner Carney reported that the Town will be creating one email address for the Commission to use, and any messages sent to that address will be forwarded to all commissioners. To respond a commissioner would have to log into the Town's account. Concerns about this not working well were raised. Commissioner Goldsipe will speak to Ms. Bongiorno and will discuss our concerns.

Bylaw-Town Meeting Warrant: Commission Goldsipe will attend the Board of Selectmen meeting when the warrant article concerning expanding equal protection is discussed, on Monday, February 22, 2016. Commissioner Baron will be asked to attend to discuss the warrant article concerning co-chairs, and Commissioner Logan will speak on the warrant article concerning the executive director position. Commissioner Grossman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Degboe, to plan an event to educate Town Meeting members on the expanding equal protection warrant article. Commissioners Goldsipe and Carney will work together to plan the event.

Facing History and Ourselves: Commissioner Grossman will be meeting with FHO representative, Dustin Tenreiro on Monday, February 22, 2016 to discuss ideas for community dialogue. Commissioner Grossman also suggested that the Commission be more involved future AHS Facing Racism retreats aside from providing financial assistance. Commissioner Carney will follow up with the AHS.

Update on Admin Position: Commissioner Carney reported that at this time the part-time position will not be filled. Commissioners will handle the tasks of taking the minutes, checking messages and for mail. Laura Munsey will handle other administrative tasks for the Commission.

Sub-Committees: Schools: Commissioner Grossman reported that the joint AHRC and School Committee subcommittee will be preparing a summary of findings and will be presented to the School Committee upon approval of the joint subcommittee. The subcommittee will be meeting on March 3, 2016. Commissioner Minton reported the Superintendent's Diversity Hiring meeting will be held on February 29, 2016

Trans 101 Training: Commissioner Goldsipe reported that the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition is able to do a Trans 101 2 hour training for 1-50 people at a cost of \$400.00. Commissioner Goldsipe made a motion to allocate up to \$500 towards the Trans 101 training to be open to all Town commissions/boards and key Town personnel. Commissioner DiFiglia seconded the motion, vote was taken and the motion passed. Commissioners Goldsipe and Carney will work together on this event.

Diversity Task Group and True Story Theater Community Events:

Commissioners Goldsipe and Degboe reported on upcoming Diversity Task Group events, some in collaboration with True Story Theater.

1-“Stereotypes: A Conscious Look at Race, Faith, Gender and Orientation” exhibit at Arlington Center for the Arts, March 7-April 15.

2- “Unconscious Bias”, a presentation with questions and answers at Town Hall on April 7.

3- True Story performance about “Stigmas” on May 10.

4-“Being an Active Bystander”, an interactive training event with TST to teach people how to diffuse situations in which someone is being harassed or discriminated against.

Commissioner Minton made a motion for the AHRC to be a co-sponsor of the events.

Commissioner Logan seconded the motion, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Adjournment: Commissioner Logan moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Minton seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:58PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Carney