

Arlington Human Rights Commission
Minutes, September 14, 2016
Jefferson Cutter House, 8:00
Christine Carney, Chair

Commissioners present: Chair Christine Carney, Vice-chair Mel Goldsipe, Sheri Baron, Wendy Bell, Marlissa Briggett, Ghanda DiFiglia, Gary Horowitz, Christopher Huvos, William Logan, Nick Minton

Absent: Sharon Grossman

Visitors: Christopher Ellinger (True Story Theater), Todd Bearson

The meeting was called to order at 8 PM.

Citizen's Open Forum

T. Bearson reported on an incident that was subsequently discussed in detail under Incidents and Complaints.

True Story Theatre (TST) Grant Proposal to National Endowment for the Arts, for 2017-2019

Christopher Ellinger from True Story Theater updated AHRC about TST's grant proposal to be submitted to the NEA before the end of this month. AHRC and TST had a successful partnership in 2015-2016 with numerous community presentations at Robbins Library and Arlington Center for the Arts on the topics of race, gender, unconscious bias, the treatment of outsiders, and various forms of exclusion and inclusion by a community. AHRC was a cosponsor of TST's first NEA grant, which will continue until May 2017, with six more events with other community groups scheduled for October through December 2016. Additional events will be scheduled for January through May 2017.

The second grant proposal will focus on the topic of "Arlington Welcomes Diversity" and run September 2017-2019. C. Ellinger requested AHRC's continued sponsorship as a "Primary Partner," as NEA requires the Town's support and endorsement. TST looks to AHRC for guidance in its programming and wants, in turn, to support AHRC's goals for community education about human rights and inclusiveness in Arlington. C. Ellinger requested a letter of support from the chairs to the NEA, that two Commissioners assume the responsibility of liaising with TST for the duration of the new grant, and committed TST to produce approximately one public event per month during the two-year grant period (not all would be AHRC events).

VOTE: Commissioner Briggett moved and Commissioner Huvos seconded that AHRC form a Primary Partnership with TST for the second grant proposal and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Bell and Huvos agreed to be liaisons to TST if the new grant is awarded.

Incidents and Complaints

Incident A

On September 11, an unidentified person placed a leaflet with anti-Semitic content in a Jewish family's mailbox. In addition, the flyer was pasted over with a threat: "Watching you Jew!"

VOTE: Commissioner Goldsipe moved and Commissioner Logan seconded that AHRC submit a Special Commentary to be published in the *Arlington Advocate* and other available electronic channels in Arlington to encourage a letter-writing campaign fostering community inclusion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Huvos agreed to write a first draft of commentary to the *Advocate* and requested all Commissioners to contribute a brief paragraph or draft of their suggestions to him.

Incident B

AHRC received a police report that the Black Lives Matter Sign at Church of Our Savior was vandalized on August 24, with the wording changed to “Black Lives Murder.” Commissioner Carney will reach out to Rev. Malia Crawford about whether the church is interested in a surveillance camera.

Incident C

AHRC received a police report that a citizen’s wireless printer was hacked on August 26 to print out a neo-Nazi message under two swastikas. The police believe this was part of a widespread remote printer hack and that no one in Arlington was targeted. Commissioner Goldsipe worked with Arlington Police and the Town’s IT Department to draft a press release regarding the flyer and how to prevent future printer hacks.

Incident D

During a fight between students at the Ottoson School on September 13, one student yelled the N-word at the occupants of the bus for students participating in the METCO program. Commissioner Carney will follow up for additional details and to offer our support.

Agenda Item #8

Final arrangements for AHRC’s booth coverage at Town Day were decided. Commissioner Baron agreed to be interviewed at the event by ACMi on video.

Due to lack of additional time, review of the Minutes from July and August, as well as Agenda Items 3-7 and 9-13 were tabled until the October 19, 2016 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Huvos, Commissioner