

Arlington Human Rights Commission
Minutes, October 20, 2016
Jefferson Cutter House, 8:00

Present: Chair Christine Carney and Vice-Chair Mel Goldsipe, Commissioners Sheri Baron, Marlissa Briggett, Ghanda DiFiglia, Gary Horowitz, Christopher Huvos, Nick Minton

Absent: Wendy Bell, Sharon Grossman, William Logan

Guest: Lynnette Martyn

Citizen's Open Forum: Ms. Martyn is a member of the Diversity Task Group and is interested in applying for a seat on the AHRC.

She reported to the AHRC a situation with an overdue parking ticket. Within a certain amount of time, apparently, these can be paid online, but the Town requires that after that period the ticket must be paid in person to the Treasurer's Office. She is concerned that this in-person process would have a negative impact particularly on people with lower incomes. Commissioner Baron elected to find out if that type of regulation is governed by each town/city of the Commonwealth or is a state regulation.

Ms. Martyn also suggested the need, in her opinion, for school notices to be available in different languages to more widely represent the population of Arlington.

Minutes: The minutes from July 20, July 26, August 17 and September 14, 2016 were reviewed. Minor administrative alterations were made. Commissioner Baron moved to accept all four sets of minutes; seconded by Commissioner Minton. Passed unanimously.

Budget for FY17: The Commissioners discussed opening town purchase orders for expenses that were expected.

Incidents & Complaints: Regarding the flying of the confederate flag on an East Arlington home, there was discussion about how to address the complaints from other residents. Chair Carney will reach out to the homeowner.

Subcommittees Reports: Commissioner Goldsipe is getting help on analyzing the data from the LGBTQ+ survey. The incident process subcommittee will get together before the next meeting. Commissioner Huvos has found five volunteer psychologists to serve in the event of hate crimes. Commissioner Grossman is working on the emergency response and the communication policy. It will be put on next month's agenda.

School liaisons: Commissioners Goldsipe and Huvos met with Margaret Thomas, director of the Arlington METCO program. She told them that the schools were moving ahead with some recommendations from the recent Cultural Competency report. They have already begun workshops for administrators. Faculty training would be in year 2. She and one of the high school teachers are leading the workshops. Commissioner Goldsipe felt that this created a conflict and suggested that we approach the administration about having an outsider facilitate the workshops instead. Commissioner Minton will

bring our concerns up at the next Superintendent Diversity Advisory Committee on October 31, knowing that this would not change things for workshops planned this semester but may have an impact on later workshops. Also, in general, both Commissioner Goldsipe and Huvos felt that the job duties for the METCO director were more than one person could do alone.

Commissioner Horowitz indicated that he talked to Eileen Woods at the Ottoson middle school, who wants to be proactive on diversity issues. He pointed to the Inside OUT Ottoson program taking place as an example of something very positive.

Next month, we will discuss new school liaisons.

Commission Openings: No news.

AHRC priorities: Commissioner Briggett moved to table this agenda item to a date we have more time to give it the consideration it needs. Commissioner Baron seconded and it was unanimously passed.

We Are Arlington project: Commissioner Goldsipe wants to work on a positive campaign highlighting Arlington's diversity. Much discussion and ideas ensued (working with the Diversity Task Group, the Disability Commission, True Story Theater, Arlington Center for the Arts, and the Arts Council, multiple events, multiple mediums). Commissioner Goldsipe moved to form a subcommittee to delve into the idea; Commissioner Briggett seconded. All were in favor. The subcommittee will consist of Commissioners Baron, Briggett and Goldsipe. The subcommittee will meet at 7:00 before the November 16 meeting.

The rest of the agenda was tabled due to lack of time, after a few quick administrative notes. The December meeting was moved to December 14. The Commission unanimously voted to cosponsor the League of Women Voters' event with the Middlesex Sheriff on October 24 after Commissioners Briggett and Carney moved and seconded, respectively.

Commissioner Horowitz moved to adjourn; Commissioner Minton seconded that and all voted unanimously to adjourn.

Submitted by Marlissa Briggett, Commissioner