

Arlington Human Rights Commission
Approved Minutes
September 20, 2017
Jefferson Cutter House, 8:00 p.m.

Present: Chairs Christine Carney and Mel Goldsipe and Commissioners Kristina Fontanez, William Logan, Nick Minton, David Swanson

Absent: Commissioners Sheri Baron, Naomi Greenfield, Sharon Grossman, Gary Horowitz, Christopher Huvos

Guests: Marlissa Briggett, Anne Pedersen

Meeting called to order at 8:05 pm. Chair Goldsipe began the meeting by noting today is Rosh Hashana. She expressed disappointment that the meeting was scheduled for the same day and noted that the Commission would be sure to avoid a conflict next year. She also noted that this week is Bisexual Awareness Week.

Minutes

The August minutes were unanimously accepted with corrections. Moved by Nick Minton & seconded by William Logan.

Correspondence

We received some emails from people who want Hate Has No Home Here signs for their yards.

Incidents & Complaints

8/24/17 - Someone left a copy of *Mein Kampf* in the driveway of a Jewish resident. The book had been stolen from Robbins Library. Others encouraged the reporting party to reach out to the ADL and indicated that they should let the police know--or the library should let the police know the book had been stolen. Chair Carney suggested we put out a public service announcement about the types of incidents that should be reported to APD and AHRC.

9/14/17 – We received a message from Beth Childs, MSW intern at the Council on Aging. Someone who receives services from the COA reported being attacked by someone in the community and believes the reason was because they are gay. They told her they did file a police report but wants to know next steps. Commissioner Goldsipe tried to locate the police report but needed more information about the incident. She wrote back and offered support and asked for identifying info for finding the police incident report. Without hearing back from the COA, we can't move forward.

Follow up about Confederate flag – We need a write-up about the history and effect of the Confederate flag. Chair Carney mentioned that Bob Sprague did a good piece. She'll find that and distribute to Commissioners. If it seems appropriate, we can ask Mr. Sprague we can share it on our website.

October 17 Meeting

This is a special planning meeting to discuss ideas for dialogues, training sessions for the coming fiscal year, and ways to best use our budget and time to maximize our impact in the community.

Deacon Frank Mandosa Community Service Award

The Arlington Human Rights Commission was the recipient this year for the Commission's work last year on the Sanctuary Town resolution at Town Meeting.

Update on Commission Openings

We should have a school committee appointment soon. Town manager is still taking applications for his opening.

Draft Guidelines for APS

The Commissioners reviewed the draft guidelines. Commissioner Fontanez will make proposed revisions in the Google Doc. The revised version will be on next month's agenda to vote on. At that meeting, the Commission will also discuss the process of implementation, including obtaining buy-in from affected groups.

Double Take Storytelling Event

Commissioner Greenfield is planning several events, including a workshop on 9/27 at Ready, Set, Kids to learn about the event. Generally, the project encourages people to talk about themselves and their experiences living here in town. It will highlight the diversity of people and stories in Arlington. Many stories will be recorded at the ACMi the week of October 2. On November 18, there will be a final event with the selected finalists performing their stories live in front of an audience. It's a communal event. A short glimpse into others' lives. More information is on our website.

Commissioner Minton moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$400 for the room reservations, printing costs, and for incidentals for the Double Take event. Commissioner Logan seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Logan moved to open a PO for Stop & Shop for \$100, seconded by Commissioner Minton. It passed unanimously.

Queer Mystic/True Story Event

The September True Story event fell through. They'd like us to cosponsor a future event on LGBTQ+ representation in the media. Commissioner Minton moved that we do so, Commissioner Swanson seconded. It passed unanimously.

HHS Closing the SNAP Gap Campaign

HHS will kick off the Closing the SNAP Gap campaign this month for the over 2,500 Arlingtonians who are eligible for SNAP benefits but unenrolled and not receiving help from the federally funded program that provides low income residents with financial assistance to purchase food. The Commission unanimously voted to cosponsor the campaign (on motion by Commissioner Minton, seconded by Commissioner Fontanez).

Subcommittee Reports

Racial Makeup of Arlington Public Schools – info from Pam Hallet to the Diversity Task Group regarding Jennifer Susse’s assessment from roughly 18 months ago. Since 2010 census, white students were down from 78.5% to 73.3%; Asians were up from 9.5% to 12.5%; Latinos were up from 5.2% to 6% and African Americans were steady at 3.7% (multiracial up from 2.9 to 4.3% and other was up from 0.2% to 0.3%). As we gain racial diversity, we’re losing economic diversity. Incoming kindergarten students who are low income dropped from 10.4 to 7.1%.

Commissioner Minton reported on the Superintendent’s Diversity Advisory Group. The new assistant superintendent is a person of color and will meet regularly with the DAG.

Town Day Recap

The location was good and we had a lot of visitors. There were requests for smaller Hate Has No Home Here signs, as well as differently colored signs. We sold a little over 100 signs at \$7/each.

Someone reported bullying at Ottoson. Chair Goldsipe asked the resident to gather details and send them to us. She has not yet received anything.

A woman met some skinheads on the bike path; they admitted that they were neo-Nazis.

Pamela Powell asked for us to cosponsor her grant application to the Cultural Council for a workshop (or series of workshops) on “Exploring Our Stories of Race.” The Commission discussed cosponsorship and decided we’d like to invite her to the next meeting and ask to see her grant application.

AHRC and arl4all Logos

Commissioner Greenfield got a quote from a professional graphic designer for \$300. Commissioners would like to see some sample designs.

Community Events

Arlington International Film Fest will be October 26-29 at the Capital Theater. AIFest.org

Common Art Exhibit. Art created by individuals who are currently or who at one time have been homeless. 11-2 on Saturday, September 23.

Please get requested agenda items to chairs on the Monday preceding the week of a meeting.

Commissioner Minton moved to adjourn the meeting at 10 pm. Commissioner Fontanez seconded. Unanimously passed.

Submitted by Marlyssa Briggett