

**Arlington Human Rights Commission
Minutes, October 18, 2017
Jefferson Cutter House, 8:00pm**

Present: Chairs Christine Carney and Mel Goldsipe, and Commissioners Kristina Fontanez, Naomi Greenfield, Sharon Grossman, Christopher Huvos, William Logan, D'ondria Maxwell, and David Swanson

Absent: Commissioners Sheri Baron, Gary Horowitz, and Nick Minton

Guests: Betsy Carlton-Gysan

Citizen Open Forum: Betsy Carlton-Gysan introduced herself and let the Commission know that she is applying for the Commission vacancy to be filled by the Town Manager.

Update on Commission Openings: The Commission welcomed and congratulated new Commissioner D'ondria Maxwell, the latest Commission appointee from the School Committee.

Review & Approve Minutes: Commissioner Logan moved to approve the minutes from September 20, 2017, as amended; seconded by Commissioner Swanson. Commissioners Greenfield, Grossman, and Maxwell abstained. All other Commissioners voted in favor.

Correspondence Received: Chair Carney explained that the Commission received the following correspondence:

- A phone call complaining about a “rude” individual from the Town’s tree department – not an official Commission complaint; Chair Carney followed up with Town officials.
- More requests for “Hate Has No Home Here” signs – Chair Carney fulfilled these requests.
- Commissioner Huvos was invited to attend an Arlington Baha’i monthly devotional, and Commissioner Huvos said that there is a standing invitation on a monthly basis for any Commissioner to attend.
- The Town Manager reached out regarding the Commission vacancy.
- Arlington International Film Fest reached out regarding co-sponsorship of some of the screenings; Chair Carney tabled this topic for later in the meeting’s agenda.
- True Story Theater asked and the Commission agreed to be named as partners in a grant application to the Arlington Cultural Council for a program including 2 shows on LGBTQ+ issues with Queer Mystic LGBTQ+ Youth Support Network and the local homeschooling network.

Incidents & Complaints: The Commission received 3 incidents from the police department:

- A call from the Council on Aging about a suspected homophobic hate incident on September 7, 2017 – The police report did not classify the incident as a hate incident. Commissioner Goldsipe encouraged the COA to advise the complainant to request a copy of the police report and said we could help facilitate a conversation with APD if the complainant disagreed with the report.
- October 12, 2017 incident on the Bike Path – A town resident overheard some anti-Semitic remarks from another pedestrian on the bike path. The town resident asked the Commission to host some events and programming regarding religious tolerance.
- October 16, 2017 incident reported via the Arlington List email group – A town resident posted to the Arlington List that a regular customer was harassing a local business with unwanted Holocaust-denial material. The town resident inquired as to how he or she and others in town might try to support the business. Commissioner Goldsipe will ask the reporting party to pass along AHRC's offer a free Hate Has No Home Here sign for the business and other assistance we can offer.

Setting the Calendar for 2018 Meetings: The Commission discussed the 2018 calendar and tentatively scheduled the following meeting dates:

- January 17
- February 15
- March 21
- April 11
- May 17
- June 20
- July 18
- August 15
- September 12
- October 3 (budget and prioritizing)
- October 17
- November 14
- December 19

Budget Meeting Recap: Chairs Carney and Goldsipe quickly recapped the budget planning meeting held by the Commission on October 17, 2017.

Draft Guidelines for Responding to Hate Incidents: The Commission discussed the latest iteration of the draft guidelines for responding to hate incidents in schools. The Commission agreed that the draft needs further revisions. Commissioner Greenfield volunteered to share the electronic draft with Commissioners Fontanez, Grossman, Huvos, and Maxwell, to continue finalizing the draft ahead of the Commission's next meeting.

Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee: Commissioner Grossman moved to table this agenda item until the next Commission meeting; seconded by Commissioner Huvos. All voted in favor.

Double-Take Storytelling Event: Commissioner Greenfield provided an update regarding this event, including latest story auditions, collaborating with ACMi, and general event planning. Commissioner Greenfield asked the Commission to help solicit further prospective storytellers.

Exploring Our Stories of Race Grant Proposal: Commissioner Grossman moved to table this agenda item until the next Commission meeting; seconded by Commissioner Huvos. All voted in favor.

Rainbow Commission Update: Commissioner Grossman moved to table this agenda item until the next Commission meeting; seconded by Commissioner Huvos. All voted in favor.

AHRC & #Arl4All Logos: Commissioner Greenfield told the Commission that a graphic designer gave her a quote of \$300 to finalize two AHRC logos.

Community Discussion about Race & Racism: Commissioner Grossman moved to table this agenda item until the next Commission meeting; seconded by Commissioner Huvos. All voted in favor.

Subcommittee Reports:

School Liaison Subcommittee – Commissioner Grossman said she met with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). ADL expressed strong interest in partnering with the Commission on several future events.

Community Events & Info:

Arlington Center for the Arts – Chair Goldsipe explained that the ACA is moving to a new building. The ACA would like the Commission to co-sponsor a future ACA event related to migration. The Commission expressed interest in co-sponsorship.

Adjournment: Commissioner Grossman moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Logan. All voted in favor.

Submitted by David Swanson, Commissioner