

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes
Wednesday, January 18, 2017, 8:00 PM
Jefferson Cutter House-Lower Level Conference Room

Present: Christine Carney and Mel Goldsipe (Co-chairs), Nick Minton, Sharon Grossman, Marliisa Briggett, Gary Horowitz, Wendy Bell, William Logan
Absent: Sheri Baron, Christopher Huvos, Ghanda DiFiglia
Guests: Susan Stamps, Marian King, Judy Weinberg, Ann Dwyer

Meeting was convened at 8:07 p.m.

1. Citizens' Open Forum – no discussion

2. Review and Acceptance of Minutes for December 2016

Commissioner Briggett moved that we accept the December minutes, as amended.
Commissioner Horowitz seconded. They were approved with Commissioners Logan and Minton abstaining.

3. Incidents & complaints

Commissioner Briggett reported that the Attorney General's Hotline reported that an anonymous caller reported that someone yelled something harassing from a car. Commissioner Briggett will stay in touch with the Hotline.

The Arlington Police Department reported that there was racist graffiti on a bench on the Minuteman Bikeway. The Police investigated and the Department of Public Works cleaned it up.

Emails were received by two citizens about Sanctuary Cities, and an event for Senior Citizens was sent ("Out of Many, One" Intergenerational Community Diversity Photography Project), and follow-up emails from prospective Commissioners.

Emails were received regarding a potential Pride Commission. A discussion followed related to its function, which would be similar to the Human Rights Commission but focused on LGBTQ concerns. They would not take complaint investigations; that duty would remain with ARHC. The Pride Commission would also look at the deficiencies found in the recent Municipal Equality Index. The Town Manager is interested in the Human Rights Commission supporting a draft warrant article that would be submitted to Town Meeting. There was support expressed during the discussion.

4. Update on vacancies/Commissioner emeritus positions

Commissioners Goldsipe and Carney interviewed ten candidates. Two candidates were chosen by the appointing bodies. It was noted that if anyone wants to step back to make room for new candidates and continue to remain active, that is an option.

5. A special meeting to discuss priorities for the year was scheduled for Wednesday March 8, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.; place to be determined.

6. LGBTQIA+ Subcommittee – continuing to look for someone to help with analyzing the data.

Incident Response Final Report (see attached) Commissioner Grossman reported on outcome–

- A. Explore the use of mental health professionals to support victims
- B. Have a press release ready/hate incident statement
- C. Event Protocol Checklist/Tool Kit

Arlington for All – Commissioner Grossman reported on the last two meetings

- a. It was agreed that we will partner with Arlington Tourism and Economic Development for a summer series
- b. Commissioner Goldsipe moved that up to \$250 be spent on a banner for Arlington for All; Commissioner Briggett seconded; all voted in favor
- c. The next meeting will be 2/8/17 at 7:30 p.m. to plan a Kickoff; place to be determined

Schools –

- a. Building Community at Ottoson Middle School – Commissioner Horowitz attended and reported on its success
- b. Commissioner Minton reported that the Superintendent’s Advisory Committee will be meeting next week

7. Update on making Arlington a Sanctuary Town

Judy Weinberg reported on the work that has been done thus far. Chief Ryan replied that he is not sure what being a Sanctuary Town would mean and how it would affect the Police Department. The Chief was not in favor of this at this time.

There will be a discussion at the next Board of Selectmen’s meeting on Monday January 23, 2017.

There are many cities and towns in Massachusetts now exploring this option.

Sanctuary Town does not have a legal description so that we can define it however we wish.

A draft “Sanctuary Town resolution” was shared and challenges (e.g. loss of federal funding) related to passing this were discussed. If we choose, the warrant article could be pulled and not discussed at Town Meeting. The intention is to propose something that will be acceptable to all stakeholders. It was agreed that the final wording will need to be approved by the Commission since the warrant article is being inserted at its request.

Commissioner Briggett moved that the Commission approve the Draft 2017 Town Meeting Sanctuary Town Warrant Article submitted by citizens in attendance to include any needed revisions necessary and authorizing Chair Carney to do so.

Commissioner Horowitz seconded the motion.

There was no discussion.

The motion was unanimously passed.

8. Email policy

We all need to make sure that we are receiving our AHRC emails that are forwarded to our personal email address or checking our ARHC email accounts at least twice a day.

Everything that is sent to the AHRC address is sent to Commissioners Goldsipe and Carney’s personal addresses and to the Town of Arlington server. These emails are also part of the town public record. AHRC business or personal issues should not be conducted over email.

9. AHRC 25th anniversary event is coming up next year

Commissioner Grossman moved to table to the special AHRC meeting. Commissioner Logan seconded; motion was unanimously passed.

10. Cultural competency training

Commissioner Logan moved to table to the special AHRC meeting. Commissioner Minton seconded; motion was unanimously passed.

11. Commissioner Briggett moved to cosponsor legislative forum The Politics of Justice: Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform in Massachusetts being organized by First Parish Unitarian Universalist Arlington; Commissioner Goldsipe seconded; motion was unanimously passed.

Community events & info:

Thursday 1/19 at 5:30 p.m. Arlington High School Little Theater – “Ghostlight Project”

True Story/DTG Bystander Intervention workshops on Jan. 24 and Feb. 22 at 7 pm still have a few spots open. RSVP to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bystander-intervention-workshops-with-true-story-theater-tickets-29826965256>

First Parish UU's Mass Incarceration Working Group legislative forum "The Politics of Justice: Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform in Massachusetts," March 25, 1-5 pm

AIFF Conversation with Independent Filmmakers March 1, 6:30 pm at ACMi

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Horowitz, seconded by Commissioner Logan.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon P. Grossman, Commissioner