

Arlington Human Rights Commission
11/14/18 -- Meeting Minutes
Jefferson Cutter House, 611 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington, MA 02474
8:00-9:45 p.m.
Naomi Greenfield and David Swanson, Co-Chairs

Attendees: Co-Chairs Greenfield and Swanson, Commissioners Fontanez, Carney, Carlton-Gysan, Bauer, Horowitz, and Logan

Absent: Commissioners Minton, Maxwell, Huvos, Baron, and Grossman

Guests: Lindsey Willenson, Laura Kiesel, Eric Pohl, Caroline Savitzky

Co-Chairs Swanson called the meeting to order at 8:04PM.

- **Check-in / Meeting Roles (8:00PM-8:05PM | 5mins.)**
 - Notetaker – Commissioner Fontanez
 - Time-Keeper
 - Next-Stepper

- **Minutes Approval (8:05PM-8:10PM | 5mins.)**
 - October Minutes
 - i. Commissioner Carney moved to accept the minutes as presented and Commissioner Bauer seconded. Commissioner Carlton-Gysan abstained but all others present voted in favor.

- **Commissioner Update (8:10PM-8:20PM | 10mins.)**
 - Commissioner updates
 - i. Commissioner Horowitz discussed his ongoing participation in the surveillance study committee.

- **Citizens Open Forum (8:20PM-8:35PM | 15mins.)**
 - Residents Willenson and Savitzky indicated interest in volunteering with the AHRC.
 - Resident Kiesel returned to discuss her complaints against the director of the HCA and asked for further discussion of her complaints given that her complaint was not intended to focus on a rent increase but instead on discrimination based on disability. Commissioner Fontanez suggested that Resident Kiesel file a new complaint describing her desired outcome from the complaint.

- **Correspondence/Incidents/Complaints (8:35PM-9:00PM | 25mins.)**
 - HCA Complaint Follow Up
 - i. Because Commissioner Huvos was absent, this item was tabled for the next meeting.
 - 2 APD Incidents
 - i. This was a single APD incident not two as was documented in the police report. We would like to clarify whether a similar incident happened to the same victim in the past.
 - Officer Pedrini Issue and Follow Up
 - i. Officer Pedrini has been placed on leave and the APD is investigating claims that the officer posted hate-filled essays on a police-industry trade letter.

- ii. Co-Chair Swanson brought up for discussion ways in which the AHRC could help develop an educational/advocacy component in response to the incident.
 - iii. Commissioner Carney suggested that we revisit the idea of holding another cultural competency or diversity training for APD, as had been provided by the AHRC a number of years ago. Commissioner Fontanez agreed with this idea.
 - iv. Commissioner Carlton-Gysan suggested that in addition we may want to have an educational event for the community in terms of solidarity for people of color who daily encounter struggles with bias, often from the police. The APD has a strong reputation for community policing and a policy which took a strong stand against the view expressed by Officer Pedrini.
 - v. Commissioner Fontanez and Carlton-Gysan suggested some type of community forum where people can come and discuss their experiences in town with the APD. Commissioner Fontanez further suggested that the forum could be used more generally for discussion of the uptick in hate crimes in Arlington. Resident Willenson also suggested that small group discussion forums (coffee hours) could also be helpful in bringing in people who wouldn't necessarily attend a large group gathering. Co-Chair Greenfield mentioned the OpenMind platform as a way to have difficult discussions in these small groups.
- Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur Survey
 - i. A survey was provided to parents asking whether they wanted to stop observing religious holidays which raised alarms among some parents about religious holidays being removed from the calendar. Co-Chair Greenfield corresponded with the school committee about the concerns.
- Islamophobia Post on FB
 - i. The daughter of an Arlington resident was subjected to anti-Islamic slurs on Facebook.
- HHNHH sign delivery (Dave)
 - i. Co-Chair Swanson indicated a number of residents had contacted him about wanting additional Hate Has No Home Here Signs.
- Patch Reporter re: Hate Crimes Report
 - i. The following incident happened within the last 48 hours. Last night, the local Arlington Patch reported the number of hate crimes in Arlington has spiked to the second highest in Massachusetts, only behind Boston.
 - ii. Co-Chair Greenfield reported that part of the reason for the high number is that Arlington takes very seriously reporting of hate crimes while many other towns do not. Nonetheless, the AHRC has an opportunity here to provide a statement and potentially plan some type of educational event around this.
- Robbins Library
 - i. The following email was received within the last 48 hours. The interested party was looking for information about an event hosted by the AHRC last fall at the Robbins. The AHRC did not host an event last fall at the Robbins and Co-Chair Greenfield will communicate this to the interested party.
- **Community events and info (9:00PM-9:15PM | 15mins.)**
 - Hate Has No Home Gathering Report Out
 - i. Co-Chair Greenfield thanked everyone for their participation in the solidarity event that we planned in response to the Pittsburgh shooting. There was a strong turnout from the community and over 100 Hate Has No Home Here signs were distributed.
 - MAHRC Meeting

- i. Nothing to report as Commissioners were unable to attend.
 - o Asian Community and Senior Center
 - i. Commissioner Bauer reported on ongoing discussions between community members about the way in which FoodLink food is distributed. Some community members feel that others, particularly Asian community members, are abusing the distribution process.
 - o ADL Metro North Advisory Committee
 - i. Co-Chair Swanson attended the recent ADL Metro North Advisory Committee meeting on behalf of the AHRC. The group includes clergy, law enforcement, and community members seeking to collaborate on human rights programming in a regional manner. The goal of the group is to plan a regional event for March/April of 2019.
- **Sub-Committee Report Out: (9:15PM-9:35PM | 20mins.)**
 - o Communications
 - i. Commissioner Carlton-Gysan reported that the website is in shape for being launched early first quarter in 2019.
 - o Double Take
 - i. Commissioner Bauer reported that several residents have indicated interest in being a storyteller at the event.
 - ii. Commissioner Bauer reported that Double Take is scheduled for Saturday Feb 9th and the room is reserved.
 - o School Liaisons
 - i. Commission Baron is not in attendance.
- **Next steps (9:35PM-9:45PM | 10mins.)**
 - o December Meeting set for Dec 12th
 - i. Follow up with 60 Pleasant Street building manager
 - ii. Follow up with APD on Official Liaison
 - iii. Responding to Incidents Document and Process
 - iv. Sound System research
 - v. Reach out to Laura in the HHS office to see whether they would like to hold about 30 of the HHNHH signs for residents to come and retrieve there
 - vi. Commissioner Carney reported that we have created a FAQs and a history of the AHRC which she planned to send to Betsy for placement on the website
 - vii. Commissioner Carney will create a facebook event for DoubleTake
 - viii. Co-Chair Swanson will provide Commissioner Bauer with information about how to create a save the date for DoubleTake that can be distributed to the AHRC mailing lists
 - o Town Meeting Prep
 - i. Indigenous Peoples Day Warrant Article
 - ii. Presentation

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:55PM by Commissioner Carney and Commissioner Bauer seconded. All commissioners voted in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Commissioner Fontanez.