

Arlington Human Rights Commission
12/12/18 -- Meeting Agenda
Jefferson Cutter House, 611 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington, MA 02474
8:00-9:45 p.m.
Naomi Greenfield and David Swanson, Co-Chairs

Present: Co-chairs David Swanson and Naomi Greenfield, Christopher Huvos, Kristen Bauer , Sheri Baron, Sharon Grossman, Gary Horowitz, William Logan, Christine Carney

Absent: D'ondria Maxwell, Kristina Fontanez, Nick Minton, Betsy Carlton-Gysan

Guest: Ashley Lorenz Ashley.e.lorenz@gmail.com

Meeting called to order at 8:07 p.m.

- **Minutes Approval (8:05PM-8:10PM | 5mins.)**
 - November Minutes – Co-Chair Swanson moved to table approval of the minutes; seconded by Commissioner Bauer; all in favor.

- **Commissioner Update**
 - Commissioner updates included a discussion about calendaring upcoming meetings.

- **Citizens Open Forum** – See below, Ashley Lorenz attended to discuss hate graffiti at Thompson School.

- **Correspondence/Incidents/Complaints**
 - Gibbs Incident – Commissioner Grossman reported on the incident involving a racist statement made to a student by a student.
 - Bike Path incident – Commissioner Huvos reported on the follow through, which included the mother of the target not returning phone calls.
 - Snow Swastika – Co-Chair Greenfield followed up on this which was reported to the AHRC and it was recommended that the photo sent to the AHRC be sent to the APD, which was done and then sent to the AHRC; a poster was put up at Menotomy Rocks Park alerting the community and asking for help but it was removed.
 - Stratton Graffiti – There was threatening graffiti and emails were sent to the Stratton community and protocol was not followed; no documentation has been provided to the AHRC.
 - Officer Pedrini Issue and Follow Up – Co-Chair Swanson reported on the follow-up, including a question from a resident about what will be happening. Chief Ryan reported that the APD is following up while adhering to labor laws.
 - Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur Survey – Commissioner Baron reported that there will be no changes to the APS schedule.
 - Envision Arlington Diversity Project Sponsorship – A student at AHS is coordinating this effort and asked for AHRC support.
 - Thompson Hate Graffiti – Commissioner Greenfield reported on an incident involving racist graffiti found in a bathroom. The principal followed procedures including documentation, sending an email to the community, police report; it was reported in the Patch and Advocate; parents/guardians organized a positive graffiti event; the principal will be meeting with each

grade level. Co-Chair Greenfield has reached out to Facing History and Ourselves about a parent education forum.

- i. Ashley Lorenz, a parent at Thompson School, attended the meeting to report on and discuss the incident and where some of it is coming from, including videos and gaming, and there is a need for parents/guardians to learn how to talk about media, media literacy, being critical thinkers, and guidance about what to do when they see symbols and discussion as hate.
 - o Ottoson Anti-Semitic Threat – A student posted a photograph of himself via social media lighting the menorah and another student commented with virulent anti-Semitic comments. The AHRC was notified by the parent of the targeted student, an email from APD, and the principal. Co-Chair Greenfield followed up with the parent. Co-Chair Swanson followed up with the principal and ADL regarding Ottoson's response to the incident. All parties are voluntarily engaging with the ADL. Overall, there was a thoughtful response to this incident, focusing on student safety and student/parent outreach and education..
- **Sub-Committee Report Out (9:00PM-9:15PM | 15mins.)**
 - o Communications – Commissioner Horowitz moved to table; Commissioner Bauer seconded; all were in favor.
 - o Double Take – Commissioner Bauer reported that the workshop event is scheduled for 1/9/19; the event will be on 2/9/19.
 - i. Publicity materials will be sent out to the Commissioners to disseminate.
 - ii. If any Commissioners are willing to help judge, please let Commissioner Bauer know.
 - iii. Each Commissioner should ask one person to share their personal identity story.
 - o School Liaisons – Commissioner Grossman reported that the AHRC is awaiting final decisions from the ASC about the school liaisons protocol and hate incident procedures.
- **2019 Retreat**
 - o Commissioner Greenfield presented the concept of the AHRC coming together for a retreat to do some strategic planning regarding who our partner groups are and how we can all work together to be both proactive and reactive.
 - o A doodle poll will be sent out.
 - o Some topics that may be addressed:
 - i. Arlington Responds to Hate Guide
 - ii. Responding to Incidents Document
 - iii. Rapid Response and Response Network
- **Town Meeting Work**
 - o Indigenous Peoples Day Warrant Article – Commissioner Baron will follow up with Town Counsel Heim.
- **Community events and info**
 - o Sound System research – Co-Chair Swanson reported that since the AHRC is a partner with ACMI, they will provide sound system support.
 - o AHS asked that the AHRC be represented at Inclusion Day on 4/10.
 - o Housing in Arlington is being presented to have a community conversation about affordable housing on 12/13 at Town Hall.

Next meeting is on Wednesday 1/23/19 at 8:00pm.

Commissioner Bauer moved to adjourn, Commissioner Logan seconded the motion; all in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 9:59pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Grossman, Commissioner.