

Arlington Human Rights Commission
10/17/18 -- Meeting Minutes
Jefferson Cutter House, 611 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington, MA 02474
8:00-9:45 p.m.
Naomi Greenfield and David Swanson, Co-Chairs

Present: Co-Chairs Greenfield and Swanson, Commissioners Huvos, Fontanez, Grossman, Baron, Horowitz, Bauer, Carney, and Logan

Absent: Commissioners Minton, Maxwell, and Carlton-Gyson

Guest: Anne Ellinger

Meeting called to order at 8:09 p.m. by Co-Chair Swanson.

- **Minutes Approval**

- August Minutes – Commissioner Carney moved to accept the minutes as amended; Commissioner Huvos seconded the motion. 6 voted in favor, and 4 abstained.
- September Minutes – Commissioner Fontanez moved to accept the minutes as amended; Commissioner Carney seconded the motion; 8 voted in favor, and 2 abstained.

- **Commissioner Update**

- Commissioner Fontanez reported on the Brackett School Diversity and Inclusion Committee, including an open forum and discussion, a debrief with the principal, and use the information gathered for follow up.
- Commissioner Horowitz reported that the Surveillance Study Committee is meeting tomorrow night and has a plan for moving forward that will be discussed.
- Commissioner Bauer thanked Commissioners Greenfield and Fontanez for help with setting up email.

- **Citizens Open Forum**

- True Story Theatre (TST) was represented by Anne Ellinger. She explained what TST is. They recently received a two-year grant to work on civic dialogue issues; the grant allows for TST and AHRC to work together at least 3 times. There was a discussion about what TST is, how it works, and topics that could be covered in conjunction with the AHRC. Commissioner Huvos will continue to be the liaison

with TST. Co-Chair Greenfield will connect with TST related to the Diversity and Inclusion Committees.

- **Incident Response**

- [Responding to Incidents Document](#) and Process
 - Co-Chair Greenfield described that this involves putting all of the processes in one place.
 - Commissioner Carney moved that this be moved to the November meeting. Commissioner Baron seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- **Correspondence/Incidents/Complaints**

- Indigenous People's Day Request
 - i. Email came to the AHRC before Columbus Day.
 - ii. Commissioners discussed the process of how this change could be made. A resolution would be presented to Town Meeting or the Select Board could be asked to make the change.
 - iii. Commissioner Baron will contact Town Counsel about the most appropriate way to look at making this change.
- Pleasant Street Incident
 - i. The incident was reviewed and Co-Chair Greenfield reported on the conversation with the building manager who reported on what actions were taken, all of which were what was going to be recommended. Co-Chair Greenfield informed the Arlington Police Department and followed up with the building manager once. There will be another follow up call to the building manager.
- Verizon Store Incident
 - i. The incident was reviewed and Commissioner Huvos reported on the conversation with the target of the incident who did not want to file a formal complaint. Commissioner Huvos offered to follow up and talk about the incident.
 - ii. A statement was made publicly by the Commission.
- Day Care Incident
 - i. There was racist graffiti at Park Avenue Congregational Church and Commissioner Carney followed up.
- Assignments and Following Up will be further discussed when we talk about the Responding to Incidents Document
- HCA Incident (continued)
 - i. Commissioner Huvos reported on the incident related to the Housing Corporation of Arlington (HCA) reported by Complainant Kiesel. The

incident was summarized. Commissioner Huvos spoke to Town Counsel, the Complainant, and the director of HCA. The issue was a rent increase, which is not related to a resident's disability, that was given to all out-of-pocket tenants of which the Complainant is one. Rent decreases are not considered a reasonable accommodation. A motion was made by Commissioner Horowitz that based on the information provided, the complaint does not fall within the AHRC's purview/jurisdiction. Commissioner Fontanez seconded the motion. Commissioner Huvos abstained, all others present voted in favor.

- **Community events and info**

- Town Day Report Out
 - i. The Commission thanked Commissioner Fontanez for the hard work and success of the Town Day booth.
 - ii. Commissioner Grossman reported on one resident who did not agree with the dissemination of the Hate Has No Home Here signs.
- Restorative Justice Event Report Out
 - i. The event was very successful and well attended.
 - ii. Need to follow up with the people who attended; the Co-Chairs will ask Commissioner Carlton-Gyson.
- ACA Exhibit
 - Commissioner Carney will reach out to them.
 - White Privilege Symposium – Co-Chair Greenfield will address this.

- **Sub-Committee Report Out**

- Communications
 - i. We will get an update from Commissioner Carlton-Gyson at the November meeting.
- School Liaisons
 - i. Commissioner Grossman reported that the Community Relations Subcommittee has all of our documents.

- **Next steps**

- November Meeting and ways to reach out to the community about Double Take were discussed
- Next meeting is November 14, 2018

Commissioner Carney moved to adjourn at 9:48 p.m. Commissioner Fontanez seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Minutes respectfully submitted by Commissioner Grossman.

Next Steps

All:

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Naomi:

- Follow up with Anne from True Story about Stratton program
- Work on Responding to Incidents Doc with Dave. Add info about releasing statements and where they go.
- Follow up with building manager from 60 Pleasant Street
- Reach out to APD about official roles for AHRC
- Make time in November Meeting for
 - Double Take
 - Asian Community (Kristen)
 - Senior Center (Kristen)
 - Warrant Article
 - RH/YK Calendar Survey

Kristen:

- Book Town Hall for both events if available.
- Follow up with visitors re: Double Take Auditions

Chris:

- Send letter with official decision to Laura Keisel

Betsy:

- Work on website. Delegate work to Commissioners so that we can have website up by end of year.
- Add RJ emails to MailChimp account

Kristina:

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Dave:

- Thank you notes for RJ Event
- Work on Responding to Incidents Doc with Naomi
- Send out Press Release on RJ Event
- Post about RJ Event follow up on FB?

Sheri:

- Reach out to Doug Heim about what it would take to make a name change for Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day