



## Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes

Date: *December 18, 2019*

Time: *8:00 pm*

Location: Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple Street 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor HHS Conference Room

Attendance: Co-Chairs Bauer and Grossman, Commissioners Baron, Brown, Carney, DiMeo, Haynes, Horowitz, Minton, Pusey, Rogers, Soneja  
Interns Annika Lof and Noah Sweder

Guests: Christine Bongiorno, Mel Goldsipe, Lynette Martyn, Elizabeth Dray

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 8:00 pm by Co-Chair Grossman

1. Introductions
  - a. The Town DEI Coordinator, Jillian Harvey, who will work with the AHRC, will start on December 30 and will attend the AHRC meeting in January.
  
2. Co-Chair Report
  - a. Meetings in 2020 will be held on: January 15th, February 27th, March 18th, April 15th, May 21st, June 17th, July 15th, August 19th, September 16th, October 21st, November 18th, and December 16th.
  - b. Commissioner Carney is the new AHRC treasurer.
  
3. Minutes
  - a. Commissioner Baron moved to accept the October minutes as amended to include that the abstentions on the Minutes were because those Commissioners were not present, seconded by Commissioner Horowitz and unanimously approved.

- b. Commissioner DiMeo moved to accept the October minutes as amended to include Commissioner Pusey being present, seconded by Commissioner Carney and unanimously approved.
- 4. Review of Community Input
  - a. There was no community input last meeting, but eight people showed up to the commissioner coffee chat and raised a variety of issues.
- 5. Working Group Reports
  - a. The Event Working Group will be reinstated
    - i. The Events Working Group will be led by Commissioner Haynes, who shared her views on how events could bring community together and reviewed some proposed several events for the AHRC to consider planning in 2020.
  - b. The Schools Working Group is considering an AHRC event at Arlington High School Inclusion day on April 14th. There was also discussion of the meeting about religious holidays in the public schools, including the request for the AHRC to sponsor a forum where community members can share their opinions about the holidays.
  - c. The Outreach Working Group presented a draft letter they plan to send to different organizations and entities in town. Commissioner DiMeo asked that his report on his personal outreach efforts be accepted. Co-Chair Bauer ruled this was not a matter pertaining to the Working Group agenda being discussed and so could not be accepted then.
  - d. The Communications Working Group is planning to redo the “Commissioner Information” section of the AHRC website. They also introduced a draft of incident response protocol and a plan for a “branding” process during the Commissioner retreat.
- 6. Community Forum
  - a. Mel Goldsipe, the Rainbow Commission liaison to the AHRC, proposed that the AHRC considers cosponsoring Arlington’s PRIDE event
  - b. Other speakers:
    - i. asked that the AHRC reaffirm the Safe Communities/TRUST Act
    - ii. asked the AHRC to consider reading a diversity and inclusion statement before meetings

- iii. asked the AHRC to consider co-sponsoring a Safe Communities event at the State House in January with Arlington Fights Racism
- iv. expressed concerns about police presence at AHRC meetings, saying this made some groups unable to sponsor AHRC events
- v. suggested sponsoring a diversity statement
- vi. suggested reevaluating the AHRC's bylaws

#### 7. Budget

- a. DIG (Diversity Inclusion Group) requested \$1000 to fund a "Wee the People" event at a picnic in June. Commissioner DiMeo moved to approve the funding, seconded by Commissioner Soneja. Commissioner Carney moved to approve \$500 in funding, seconded by Commissioner Minton. Commissioner Pusey moved to table discussion about the funding until next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Horowitz. More information about the purpose of this event was requested. Seven voted in favor of tabling and four were opposed.

#### 8. Town Surveillance Study

- a. The report about increasing surveillance in Arlington was offered to the AHRC by Commissioner Horowitz, who represented the AHRC on the committee. Commissioner Minton moved to accept the report, seconded by Commissioner Carney, and approved unanimously.

#### 9. Incidents/Response

- a. Based on the information to date, there were 21 incidents in 2019, but no official complaints. All but one of the incidents were hate incidents. 11 were referred to the AHRC by the police department, and 14 involved schools.

#### 10. Motion for AHRC Statement

- a. Commissioner DiMeo moved that the AHRC realign its efforts to support and reach out to groups affected by the Pedrini incident and proposed a statement for the AHRC to make. This was seconded by Commissioner Brown. Commissioner Horowitz moved to divide the first page of Commissioner DiMeo's motion into separate sections based on bullet points, seconded by Commissioner Carney. Commissioner Brown moved to divide the document into two sections based on its pages, seconded by

Commissioner Rogers. Commissioner Horowitz moved to divide the document into both the bullet points and pages, seconded by Commissioner Haynes. Seven voted in favor and three were opposed, with one abstention. Co-Chair Grossman called on Commissioner DiMeo to cease speaking due to time and when he did not, she called him out of order. Co-Chair Bauer proposed to table discussion on all of the parts of Commissioner DiMeo's motion and create a Ad hoc working group to discuss the statement, seconded by Commissioner Carney and approved unanimously.

11. Safe Communities Statement

- a. Discussion of the Safe Communities Act was tabled until next month.

12. Announcements

- a. Announcements were tabled until next month.

Motion to adjourn was made at 10:00 pm by Commissioner Baron, seconded by Commissioner Horowitz, and approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.