



Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Time: 8:00 PM- 10:00 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Co-chairs Grossman and Bauer, Commissioners Minton, Rogers, Haynes, Pusey, Soneja, Brown, Carney, DiMeo, Horowitz, Baron,

Guests: Jillian Harvey- DEI Coordinator, Alexis Smith-MAPC

Intern Noah Sweder

Minutes

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

1. Co-chair Report- 10 mins
 - a. Co-chair Bauer reads script on remote public meetings
 - b. Request for a secretary in the Commission
2. Review of Minutes- 5 mins
 - a. A motion to approve the April minutes was made by Commissioner Minton, seconded by Commissioner Carney and approved unanimously.

3. Review of Community Input- 5 mins
 - a. Eight commissioners attended a “Responding to Racism and Bias” training through True Story Theater.
4. Review of Police Presence Guidelines- 20 mins
 - a. In the past, the Arlington Police Department provided the Human Rights Commission with statistics yearly on those pulled over for review of potential racial bias. Potentially looking to begin a similar initiative.
 - b. Options for those looking to contact the AHRC but do not feel comfortable attending a meeting: email or send a letter to the Co-chairs or a Commissioner, request a private meeting with the Co-chairs.
 - c. The AHRC will better publicize the variety of ways they may be contacted.
 - d. Commissioner Rogers will speak with legal counsel and update AHRC Police Presence Guidelines.
5. Review of Working Groups- 25 mins
 - a. Outreach
 - i. Will create a document with ways to contact the AHRC.
 - ii. Working on guidelines for publishing statements.
 - b. Communication
 - i. Worked with Town Manager Chapdelaine to get the website domain transferred to current Commissioners.
 - c. Schools and Education
 - i. Will not meet until school will open and resume.
Amended: SWG reactivated, and met on 6/2/2020 and 6/14/2020 in response to current climate and issues regarding school data.
 - d. Events
 - i. There will be a virtual panel on May 27th.
 - ii. Spring into reading event waiting to hear back from authors.
 - iii. Possible “Decolonizing the Mind” event with Debby Irving in the fall.
 - iv. A motion to expend up to \$500 for “We’re All in this Together” posters designed by artist Joey James was made by Commissioner Haynes, seconded by Commissioner DiMeo and approved unanimously.
 - e. By-Laws
 - i. No update
6. Other Reports- 15 mins
 - a. Commissioner Carney gave an update on the budget.
 - b. A motion to put \$1000 towards the Rainbow Commission’s poster project for pride month was made by commissioner Carney, seconded by Commissioner Pusey and approved unanimously.
 - c. A motion to use up to \$300 for buying children’s books at the Spring Reading event was made by Commissioner Carney, seconded by Commissioner DiMeo

and approved unanimously.

7. Community Input- 15 mins

- a. Alexis Smith, housing planner for MAPC, discussed fair housing and preventing housing discrimination. She is working with the town of Arlington on the issues, particularly housing affordability, accessible units (for seniors) and those with mental health challenges.

8. Propose Public Statements- 20 mins

- a. AHRC discussed the proposed Statement on the Ongoing Repression of the Muslim Community in India.
- b. A motion to approve and publish the Statement on the Ongoing Repression of the Muslim Community in India was made by Commissioner Soneja, seconded by Commissioner Carney and approved unanimously.
- c. The AHRC guidelines for when and why to putting out statements.

9. Incidents- 5 mins

- a. Commissioners Pusey and Carney are following up with a reported incident.
- b. Next meeting the AHRC will continue to discuss human rights issues surrounding COVID-19 and particularly masks.

10. Announcements- 5 mins

- a. Request for a media intern

A motion to adjourn at 10:00 pm was made by Commissioner Minton, seconded by Commissioner Brown, and unanimously approved.

Next meeting: June 17, 2020, 8:00 pm, Remote Participation.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.