



Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday July 15, 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, Jolin, Horowitz

Jillian Harvey- DEI Coordinator

Intern Noah Sweder

Community Members Katie Sonin, Rachel, Patrice Faulkner, Julie Flaherty, Lenard Diggins, Rebecca Gruber, Taleen Gleeson, Michaiah Healy, Elizabeth Dray, Kiki Tapiero, Lynette Culverhouse, David Kranz, Chris DiMeo

Minutes

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

1. Co-chair Report
 - a. Welcome new Commissioner Hina Jolin; Kathleen Rogers was re-appointed, both by the Arlington School Committee. Continue to have one opening to be appointed by the Town Moderator.
 - b. Concern about workloads and need to all contribute
 - c. Weekly meetings with Town Manager Chapdelaine
2. Review of Minutes

- a. A motion to accept the June minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Minton, seconded by Commissioner Soneja, and approved with an abstention by Commissioner Jolin.
3. Review of Community Input
 - a. 4 speakers last time spoke on APS incidents procedures, past data, discipline policy and the BSU statement. No immediate comment.
4. Budget discussion
 - a. Budget Guidelines
 - \$7,500 budget for the year
 - \$5,000 for programs and events, speakers
 - \$500 for marketing and administrative supplies
 - \$1,400 for technology
 - \$350 for co-sponsorships
 - \$250 for miscellaneous needs
 - b. A motion to accept budget guidelines as working budget was made by Commissioner Minton, seconded by Commissioner Pusey and unanimously approved
5. Social Media
 - a. Discussion around discrimination on online social media in Arlington. Proposing that AHRC make a statement to advocate for equitable policies and recommend moderation policies.
6. Indigenous People's Day
 - a. Discussion on working on a warrant article about changing "Columbus Day" to "Indigenous People's Day" as well as supportive events. Also reported on pending bills at the State House.
7. Review of Working Groups
 - a. Agreed to discuss at next meeting how Working Groups are working for the Commission.
 - b. Outreach
 - i. Building contact lists
 - ii. Implemented detailed system in Mail Chimp
 - iii. Infographic to help community get involved with the AHRC
 - iv. Compiling merchant contact list
 - v. Coffee chats coming up
 - c. Communication
 - i. Online sign request (Hate Has No Home Here & Love Lies Here signs).
 - ii. Commissioners were encouraged to use social media to disseminate information about Commission events and statements.
 - d. Schools and Education
 - i. Memo to School Committee was sent to address issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion issues; these issues will be addressed in the Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability Subcommittee when it meets in August
 - ii. Partnering with the Black Student Union and Anti-racism Working Group

- e. Events
 - i. BLM day July 13th
 - ii. Collaboration with the Robbins Library project highlighting African American authors and speakers.
 - iii. "We're All In This Together" posters printed
 - iv. Ordering more BLM posters
 - f. By-Laws
 - i. Update in August or September
8. Masks
- a. Discussion of people experiencing racist and difficult incidents around masks. Agreed to write a statement about wearing masks.
9. Community Input
- a. Issues raised:
 - i. Appreciation of AHRC work on outreach and town events but concerned that outreach has not included Arlington Fights Racism or the Diversity Task Group.
 - ii. Concern about community "dialogues" having selected representation and that they are not representative of the community.
 - iii. Understood that there would be an apology statement to Mr. Remy for the school's response to him
 - iv. Request AHRC to make an official recommendation at the Select Board meeting to have BLM Banner stay on Town Hall.
 - v. Support for the proposed guidelines for social media guidelines
 - vi. Concern about social media moderation
10. Incidents
- a. Homophobic epithets incident: concern about effort from the APD in tracking the perpetrator and whether the police report was sufficiently descriptive. Also concern that the APD officers do not know hate crimes were tracked. Police Chief explained process and will look into these specifics.
 - b. Black Lives Matter signs being taken incidents continue.
11. Housing Issues
- a. Discussed positive reactions to the Community Conversation about housing, which was added to the events schedule.
 - b. The Suffolk University study about racial discrimination that included Arlington was raised. It was proposed that the AHRC issue a statement regarding the study and the effects of housing policy on racial equity. Agreed we should do a statement, create a brochure toolkit and reach out to rental and real estate offices in town and make sure they are aware of the state law forbidding racially biased housing practices.
12. Announcements
- a. Commissioners were reminded of the following needs:
 - i. Sign up to participate in writing statements on Social media, Housing, Masks
 - ii. Check to be sure that they are on enough working groups
 - iii. School Committee's Curriculum subcommittee and the liaison to the Anti-racism Working Group at the school

- b. The co-chairs will be meeting with other co-chairs from the Rainbow and Disability Commissions
13. A motion to adjourn at 9:57 pm was made by Commissioner Soneja, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously approved.

Next meeting: Aug 19, 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.