



## Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday January 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 Rogers, Haynes, Pusey, Soneja, Brown, Jolin, Minton, Horowitz, Carney, Baron, Carey

DEI Office - Jillian Harvey, Christina Coleman

Interns: Annika Benn, Tessa Erbe

APD representative: Captain Sean Kiernan

Community Members: Rebecca Gruber

Minutes

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

### 1. Co-chair Report

- a. The Commission welcomes Naoka Carey, new Commissioner for the AHRC
- b. Commissioner Rogers is the new AHRC appointment to Civilian Review Board Exploratory Committee
- c. Co-chair Bauer is the new AHRC representative to the MA Human Rights

Commission

- d. Co-chair Grossman is the new AHRC representative to the Police Chief's Advisory Council
  - e. The co-chairs met with Adam Chapdelaine to discuss resolutions and warrant articles, and the superintendent finalist process. Co-chairs also submitted the 2020 Annual Report to Town Meeting
  - f. *Envision Arlington* survey is out; anyone over the age of 15 can fill it out. The Schools and Education WG is also planning to spread the survey to APS schools
2. Review of Minutes
    - a. Motion to approve minutes by Commissioner Pusey and seconded by Commissioner Rogers, passed with unanimous approval
  3. Review of Community Input from December 2020 Meeting - No Updates
  4. Calendar
    - a. Co-chair Grossman discusses the proposed calendar, and possible changes to 2021 meetings in September, February, and March due to holidays
  5. Budget Discussion
    - a. Commissioner Carney reports AHRC budget of \$7,500, with \$200 already spent. The budget handles events, speakers, technology, sponsorships, and miscellaneous costs
  6. Indigenous People's Day
    - a. Commissioner Pusey reports on the progress of the statements to select board and the need for supplementary speakers and community comments
    - b. Warrant Articles were reconstructed with a list of holidays and land acknowledgements, and were sent to the Town Moderator
    - c. The Pierce Turf at AHS still depicts the Menotomy hunter. Currently, it is scheduled to be replaced in 4 years unless further fundraising can be completed.
  7. School Depiction Issue
    - a. Diversity Task Group raised issues that the graphics on the construction site at AHS and on the website lacked student diversity, DTG sent a letter to the Town Communications Directors
    - b. The AHRC is reaching out to Jeff Theilman of the Building Project and Adam Chapdelaine to rework outdoor signs and the website to represent a more diverse student body of AHS
  8. Events at the U.S. Capitol
    - a. The commission agreed to a statement addressing the events at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021
    - b. Motion to form group to draft statement for co-chairs by Brown and second by Soneja, passed with unanimous approval
  9. Review of Working Groups

### Events (Commissioner Haynes)

- a. There will be a Meet the Artist event on Feb 9th and the Black History Month banners will be installed along Mass Ave.
  - i. Banners focusing on notable activists of color (Angela Davis, Marielle Franco, etc.) will be in East Arlington
  - ii. Also working on the printing of t-shirts and bookmarks for Black History Month
- b. ii. The Envision Arlington subgroup plans to collaborate with the AHRC to plan a year of events
- c. iii. AHS students will be partnering with Arlington Reads

### Communications (Commissioner Brown)

- a. Newsletter went out early January to 700 people and was read by about 200
- b. The next newsletter will come out in March and center around Earth Day and climate change

### Schools and Education (Co-chair Grossman)

- a. Commissioner Soneja continues working on outreach with the schools to share the resource document created by the interns
- b. The interns will share the Envision Arlington survey with their club, and working group member Noah Sweder will share document with the Antiracism Working Group (AWG) at AHS
- c. The Indigenous People's Day warrant articles are still in progress and will be discussed at the next AICC subcommittee meeting
- d. The Superintendent's diversity meeting is scheduled for January 6th
- e. Noah Sweder reported on the Antiracism Working Group's plan for changes to the APS curriculum

### Outreach (Commissioner Pusey)

- a. The WG plans to focus on spreading awareness among residents affected by housing issues; low income residents, immigrants, and refugees, etc.

### BLM - No Updates

10. Community Input - No comments

11. Incidents

- a. Commissioner Rogers reported on 4 incidents
- b. Commissioners Carney and Soneja each reported on 1 incident
- c. Chief Flaherty commented on bylaws regarding graffiti removal and steps being taken
- d. Captain Kiernan provided an update on 2019 arson fires; they are currently under investigation by the FBI
- e. Captain Kiernan reported no APD officers participated in the events at the U.S. Capitol to their knowledge
- f. Chief Flaherty will send letters out to the advisory committee and is planning six 90 minute training sessions that focus on diversity and inclusion

12. Election

- a. Commissioners Pusey and Commissioner Jolin were nominated by Commissioner Carney for 2021 co-chairs
- b. Motion to approve the appointment of Commissioners Pusey and Jolin by Commissioner Carney, seconded by Commissioner Baron; passed with unanimous vote

13. Housing

- a. The housing working group (Commissioners Carney, Baron, and Brown) will work with the Town Meeting, Envision Arlington, and the housing planning director to focus on addressing housing inequity in Arlington
- b. Draft of housing recommendations will arrive early February
- c. Commissioners Brown and Carney will connect with the housing planning group and create events

14. Announcements

- a. Co-Chair Jolin announced handling of incident reports in the month of February will be assigned to Commissioner Soneja and Commissioners Bauer and Grossman will hold the February Coffee Chat

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Baron, passed with unanimous approval