

3. Community Input: none.

4. DEI Updates

a. Second annual Lunar New Year Celebration was a success, with close to 300 attendees.

- Tabling and the information about what the commissions were doing were well received.
- Going to hand off the running of the Lunar New Year Celebration to a resident of Arlington who wants to run it.

b. A grant was applied for and received; it's a municipal grant that will fund the creation of new storage by the rink for accessible tricycles.

c. MLK committee is looking for new members, specifically new leaders - tell Jill Harvey if interested.

- Especially interested in any new ideas or changes the new members want to have in the MLK committee.

d. Massachusetts Racial Equity Advancement and Collaborative Hub (REACH) program, first session was yesterday (2/14). 11 attended from Arlington, 11 municipalities are attending in total.

- Yesterday's meeting was to set the tone for the year. Jill Harvey will be having meetings in between the monthly in-person sessions with Arlington members of the program to define goals and steps to achieve them.

e. Tuesday 2/27, Box of Memories and Hope event in Arlington Center for the Arts first floor, run with the library children's program, is a grief workshop.

f. March 26, there will be an in-person Know Your Rights training program in the Arlington Community Center at 6 PM, and another the following night, 3/27 at 6:30PM online

5. Co-Chairs Report

a. APD Meeting with Chief Flaherty

- Big part of meeting was discussion of settlement for racial profiling lawsuit.

1. The settlement was confidential, and the plaintiff talked to the press about it. The settlement was \$80k, supposed to be higher, but ended up adding stipulations that the APD had to do certain trainings, and have a review of incident data (e.g. traffic stops) for bias. The trainings also had a stipulation that they had to be

taught by certain vendors.

- Another neo-nazi protest near Maura Healey's house. They parked about a mile away.
- b. Status of Arlington Civilian Police Advisory Commission
- Town manager has emailed about scheduling the first meeting
 - Would be good for an AHRC commissioner to be a regular attendee of the CPAC to bring reports of activities back to the Commission. Meeting date/schedule is to be decided.
 - AHRC nominee to the CPAC is expected to report back to the Commission.
- c. Meeting with DEI Co-Chairs
- There are accessible tricycles that people can use on Minuteman Bikeway that will be stored in the new storage facility by Ed Burns rink.
- d. Budget
- Every committee has to submit a budget to the town by 2/22/24 for FY25
 1. Money left over from last year's budget could be used to do sensitivity trainings that the commissions feel like their work would benefit from, or to help the starting costs of the CPAC, which is an unfunded mandate shouldered by the DEI, needs more discussion before 2/22/24.
 - Event costs that still need to be paid
 1. Day of learning costs, keynote speaker will be paid from revolving account, coffee costs, paying the school and custodians.
 2. \$350 to Facing History participant needs to be paid.
 - Want to replace BHM banners on street, some are missing, others are getting old
 1. larger: \$450 each
 2. smaller: \$250 each
 3. under \$3000 in total for the signs
 - Need to develop a vigil kit
 - Buckets
 1. Could set money aside for to pay speakers, a bucket for communications (fixed cost), events bucket (includes co-sponsoring), CPAC bucket, training bucket.
 2. Could pay for email accounts for the commissioners so they don't

have to use their home accounts for AHRC.

6. Incidents & Complaints

a. Commissioner Updates (Scott Jones)

- There is a housing issue, but it isn't an AHRC thing. Jones is going to reach out to the Disability Commission to help the complainant.
- Reports about the underpass: there is an ongoing Anti-Semitic graffiti issue.
- 3-4 kids in Ottoson were caught watching a video of a popular song with its lyrics twisted to contain Anti-Semitic language during lunch, found because they weren't supposed to be on their phones during lunch, their argument that it was for research, that they were reading the book Night.

b. APD Updates

- Settlement of racial profiling lawsuit
 1. The settlement was \$80k, with stipulations that the APD was to undergo trainings from a specific company as well.

c. Peter Pan productions in Arlington

- 2 theater companies are putting on Peter Pan, the musical contains a song with extremely offensive language, including making a mockery of Indigenous languages.
 1. A parent talked to a director about their concerns, the director told the parent if they kept harassing them about it the parent's kid wouldn't get a part in any of the plays.
 - a. One of the companies (ACT) hired a person from Harvard Medical School to change the play to cut out all of the offensive parts.
 - b. Other theater was told they couldn't keep the play in its original form, Griffin Jones is going to do a follow-up.

d. Incident Handling

- February: Commissioner Scott Jones
- March: Commissioner Sharon Grossman
- April: Commissioner Griffin Jones

7. Working Group Updates

a. Schools & Education

- The DEI specialist is doing residencies at multiple schools; Gibbs is the place they will start.

- AHRC has been invited to Civics day at OMS, Rajeev Soneja will represent the Commission, but others are welcome to join (it is in March).

b. Outreach / Events

1. Hasn't met this month.
 2. Sharon and Kristin did a coffee chat, was well advertised, but not many people came (we need a better sign at the event). It was at Caffe Nero, which was busy, on a Saturday at 2, would be good to rotate coffee shops.
- Debrief on Day of Learning
 1. Around 50 people attended, someone is going to send out a survey about the day of learning to get feedback, the feedback we've gotten so far has been positive.
 - Next Coffee Chat: Rajeev & Kevin in March
 - Black History Month: The Color Purple is going to be playing for free at the Capitol Theater on 2/22.
 1. Was done once before at the Regent Theater, not many people came, need to distribute the fliers.
 - Indigenous Peoples Day: event in October, they already ascertained the people who will perform, they need to fill out the form for co-sponsoring, and there needs to be some money set aside for it in the budget.

c. Communications

- Didn't meet this month but have sent one or two emails.
- There have been website fixes to make it less confusing.

d. Event Against Anti-Semitism (Commissioners Bryant, Scott Jones & Carney)

e. Proposal: Training Working Group

- Would be good for new commissioners to form a temporary working group to come up with a list of topics they need training in. Scott Jones will be the point person, if others want to be a part of it, reach out to him.

8. MAHRC Update (Commissioner Soneja)

- a. Put together a few topics for discussion of what the MAHRC public role will look like.
 - Need to create a separate/frequent meeting.
 - Are figuring out the protocols and how the group is going to work.
- b. They are considering a joint statement for all HRCs to talk about inclusiveness

in the community, if AHRC is asked to sign something already drafted, we'll look at it and ask each other for thoughts.

- c. A lot of people are feeling afraid, maybe have a co-vigil?
9. Announcements
- a. We have done Juneteenth events before, headed by the DEI, are considering co-sponsoring with another organization to utilize manpower and time, and be able to gather more people to a bigger event.

10. Adjournment

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 8:00 pm

Anyone needing accessibility information or assistance to attend this meeting should contact Tim Ross at tross@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.