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AHRC Meeting Minutes 07/17/2013

Arlington Human Rights Commission Meeting

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Senior Center – Conference Room

8:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Present: Robin Varghese (Chair), Nancy Rhoads (Vice Chair), Sheri Baron, Christine Carney, Sharon Grossman, Mel Goldsipe, Ghanda Difulgia, Nick Minton, and Jorje Loayza.

Absent: Gary Horowitz, Marlissa Briggett, Nancy Sweeney, and Stacy Davison

Citizen's Open Forum (15 minutes) – Peter Bermudes – Arlington Community Media Inc. Sarah Alfaro Franco – news director. – Arlington public news – wonderful way to bring our message to a wider audience. Request for video recording the public portion of the human rights commission. Board of Health is now presented on ACMI and help to share our meeting with the wider audience. – Monthly meeting – full and potentially summary in a similar format to BOH meeting. Arlington public news – every two weeks – We should request a link to the video and interviews.

Nick suggested that perhaps starting with the 20th anniversary of the AHRC as an article instead of recording meetings. There was some concern about editorial review of meeting recording when not broadcast in their entirety. Editor has full discretion here.

Correspondence received:

Massachusetts Association of Human Rights and Relations Commissions information – link to be provided on our website. Will request to have them link to ours. Meetings begin again in September. Who would like to attend?

Survey from US Commission on Civil Rights – Due July 19th.

Received word that Nancy Sweeney – long time member of the Commission passed away. Chair will look into what type of remembrance the Commission is permitted to make with its budget.

Identify Chairs for various subcommittees

School Liaison program – Sharon G. - Talking points are needed to help with discussion and short introduction to the Commission for other town groups.

Nancy R. has more details – the following were mentioned at the meeting.

The commission is a resource, we look to collaborate with other town groups, we maintain confidentiality with schools for informal discussions

Things we have done – seed money for the GLTB – Metco – parents/principal discussion, acted as a sounding board for various town groups, letters reviewed by the commission, forums on special Ed, bullying, dating violence, PDPs for teachers, community forums, leadership to getting new programs to school, supported the Building Respect Task Force. Sharon will work with Nancy R, on using these bullets and turning it into talking points for the

commission to use at a variety of speaking opportunities.

Town Day – Sept 21st – Sheri B. and Christine C. -

Every Day Hero/20th Anniversary Celebration – May 2014

Dialogues – Film Festival as a potential location to show the film we are considering “Rescue in the Philippines” (Oct 23-27)
– Unanimously voted to approve moving forward with this film and having a discussion with the film maker.

Finances review

Budget for the year – MLK support (Typically \$50 – this year we will purchase something or help support instead of providing a cash donation) , Town Day permit (\$50 paid out of the last year’s budget for this September), Whitmore Robbin’s house - We are charged a reduced rate – What will be this rate for our May event ?

Dialogue costs? – Stacy will look into the costs for having the film maker available for a discussion after the film showing. Also Christine is looking into the potential to have the film included as part of the Arlington Film Festival and if not what costs we will incur to have it show elsewhere.

Admin – Nancy has identified a colleague that is an Arlington resident and is interested in the position. Chair will talk with the applicant and determine the logistics of moving forward with hiring this person if a phone conversation with the applicant goes smoothly. Discussion of the pay rate was brought up and \$12-15 was raised however some objected to the higher end of this scale. The commission felt that there would be enough work to warrant 4 hours a week of work. \$12x4 hr/week – 50 weeks = \$2400. Rapid response task force list needs to be maintained, phone checks, e-mail box, maintain a database of incidence of HR violations. Chair will contact Christine B. to determine how to move forward with a candidate that we identify.

June Minutes to review – Approved with changes.

Incidents & Complaints: June 23rd – swastika painted on the bike path – police received notice and worked with DPW to have the graffiti removed. Discussion ensued that we need to keep track of these types of incidents for inclusion in our annual report as well as to guide our choices for dialogues and discussions within the town.

Para transit program update: Jim Nihan would like to present to us at one of our meeting. Discussion ensued that we should work with the Commission for Disabilities on this matter as it falls within their mission. Chair will contact the (Jack Jones – ADA coordinator) Commission for Disabilities to make them aware of this opportunity.

Update on “Books for Bill”. Christine Bongiorno (Board of Health Director) has order the books Christine C. had indicated the Commission would like to order. Value to be \$200. Christine C.’s relative will do the inscription on a Book label to be included in each book.

Website update - FAQ’s are still limited to just the one. Correction to Ms. Goldsipe’s e-mail address has been made. Documents for commission handling of complaints and the complaint form will be posted to our website. The Commissions Facebook account has been set-up with Christine C and the Chair set-up as contributors. The Twitter account will be set-up shortly.

Outstanding Deliverables: -

FAQ’s in light of updated Website offerings.

20th Anniversary highlights of commissions activities – draft should be ready to discuss next meeting – August 21st.

Phone/contact list update - Nancy R. believes that this list is in the Commission’s computer files. We need to retrieve these.

5 minute summary for various visits to outside organizations -

Others – Discussion on the use of E-mail for commission decision. Agreed that the Commission cannot make any decision using e-mail. Just for communication between commissioners and with residents.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 9:50 pm.

Next meeting – Wednesday August 21st at 8 pm – NOTE: Health and Human Services conference room located in the senior center (27 Maple St)