



Human Rights Commission - DRAFT Minutes

Date: Thursday, June 20, 2024

Time: 8:00 PM

Location: 27 Maple Street, HHS Conference Room, 2nd Floor

Conducted by Hybrid (Remote and In-Person)

1. Attend in person in the 2nd Floor HHS Conference Room at the Community Center (Senior Center), 20 Academy Street/27 Maple Street. Registration not required for in-person attendance.

2. *Notice to the Public on meeting privacy* To prevent abuse of video conferencing 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 names may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the dial-in telephone information provided.

Present: Co-Chairs Drake Pusey and Griffin Jones; Commissioners Hira Ambreen, Kristen Bauer, Crystal Beauchemin, Kevin Bryant, Christine Carney, Sharon Grossman, Gary Horowitz, Laurie Key, Scott Jones, Rajeev Soneja

Staff: Tim Ross

Guests: Nadja Rozovsky, Rebecca Gruber, Gabriella Eisner, Lisa Hota

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 8:00pm

1. Remote Meeting Notice and Land Acknowledgement

2. Review of May 16, 2024 Monthly Meeting Minutes—need to have less detailed minutes, need to give samples to the next intern. Edits and amendments were provided by Commissioners to Drake.

- Commissioner Soneja motions to approve as amended, Commissioner Ambreen seconds.
 - Vote:
 - In Favor: Pusey, Jones, Ambreen, Bauer, Beauchemin, Bryant, Carney, Grossman, Horowitz, Key, Jones, Soneja
 - Oppose: none
 - Abstain: none

3. Community Input

- Nadja Rozovsky: Has engaged with the Commission over the past months in regards to the Ceasefire Resolution. Understands that the Commission wants to show leadership, but urges the Commission to reflect on what it heard from the community, that 3 out of 5 do not want a ceasefire resolution. She fully supports the proposed actions to address religious intolerance, but feels that the fundamental need is for people to talk to each other.

4. DEI Updates

- Budget Update: \$1800 left. Likely doesn't include NEAT and AAPI dinners. Commission discussed options.
 - Commissioner Carney motions that we add Antisemitism signs to desired items to be bought if money is available, Commissioner Grossman seconds. Commissioner Soneja urged that we provide signs addressing acceptance of all religions.
 - Vote:
 - In Favor: Pusey, Jones, Bauer, Beauchemin, Bryant, Carney, Grossman, Horowitz, Key, Jones
 - Oppose: Ambreen
 - Abstain: Soneja
- Open Meeting Law Training Update: Looking to have this happen next month.
- Events: Saturday will be Arlington Pride in the Town Gardens 12:00-3:00 PM and Sunday will be Black Patriots in Menotomy, details on the website.

5. Co-Chairs Report

- a) APD Meeting with Chief Flaherty—nothing to report out
- b) Process updates
 - Propose agenda topics in advance, about two weeks ahead of time
 - Change of incident scheduling, no longer by month but Co-Chairs will select each to go to next Commissioner to try to distribute workload better
- c) Meeting with DEI Co-Chairs: discussed other ways of doing roles
- e) Update on Hingham Statement: submitted minutes for April to AG, still ongoing investigation
- f) End of Co-Chair Term: still looking for a second Co-Chair
- g) Annual Retreat Discussion
 - Two-hour session replacing a summer monthly meeting
 - Proposed Agenda
 - AHRC Bylaws (Town Counsel)
 - Discussion re: navigating AHRC role & relevance in the town w/professional facilitator
 - Transparency
 - Meeting materials
 - Recordings/transcripts
 - Work expectations

- Role clarity (budgeting, single points-of-contact w/DEI office and for events)

6. Incidents & Complaints

a) Commissioner Updates

- Commissioner Carney handling a case involving rental with pets. Commissioner Soneja has worked with this person for years and gave his views. How issues come to the Commission and communications were discussed.
- School incidents: Stratton and Hardy involving racist hate speech
- APD reported an incident about TikTok style video re: a street fight involving racist speech, no followup needed by us at this point.
- School showing of Romeo and Juliet involving nudity over which there is a current lawsuit about consent. Principal is vetting whether to continue to show this. Cochairs will ask the Principal to consider the Commission's views.
- Commissioner Soneja reported on another rental case involving advertisements.
- Nightly standout incidents monitored
- Anti-LGBTQ comments about the painting crosswalks discussed

b) APD Updates–APD not represented

7. Working Group Updates

- Schools & Education (Commissioner Grossman): Commissioner Grossman will step down from leading this WG, will continue to be liaison to Margaret. Superintendent signed off on procedures for reporting incidents from schools.
- Outreach / Events (Commissioner Bauer): Highlighted upcoming National Night Out and Town Day and need for ideas for these tabling events.
 - Next Coffee Chat: Rajeev & Kevin
- Communications (Commissioner Pusey): Many postings to social media and the website.
- Training (Commissioners Scott Jones and Griffin Jones): The retreat will help determine training needs.
- Religious Tolerance (Commissioners Scott Jones and Hira Ambreen): Considering how to shape this to bring people together and avoid just arguing over points. Will be meeting soon on this with those interested.

8. MAHRC Update (Commissioner Soneja): Reviewed notes that were submitted.

9. Announcements: 250th anniversary kickoff happened, if want to help on Sunday contact Jill

10. Adjournment

- Commissioner Soneja motions to adjourn, Commissioner Grossman seconds.
 - Vote:
 - In Favor: Pusey, Jones, Ambreen, Bauer, Beauchemin, Bryant, Carney, Grossman, Horowitz, Key, Jones, Soneja
 - Oppose: none
 - Abstain: none

