



Human Rights Commission – Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 21, 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.

On March 29, 2023, Governor Healey signed into law a supplemental budget bill that extends the temporary provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2025. Specifically, this extension allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body being physically present at a meeting location and to provide "adequate, alternative" access to remote meetings. The language does not make any substantive changes to the Open Meeting Law other than extending the expiration date of the temporary provisions regarding remote meetings from March 31, 2023, to March 31, 2025.

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/updated-guidance-on-holding-meetings-pursuant-to-the-act-extending-certain-covid-19-measures>

Present: Co-Chairs Drake Pusey and Griffin Jones; Commissioners Hira Ambreen, Kristen Bauer, Crystal Beauchemin, Christine Carney, Sharon Grossman, Rajeev Soneja

Staff: Jillian Harvey (DEI)

APD: Capt. Richard Flynn

Guests: Sarah McKinnon, Chadi Salamoun, Michael Cunningham (Town Counsel), Jaclyn Munson (Deputy Town Counsel)

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 8:01 PM

1. Remote Meeting Notice and Land Acknowledgement
2. Review of July 17, 2024 Monthly Meeting Minutes
 - a. Edit offered by Commissioner Carney

- b. Vote: Commissioner Soneja motions to approve as amended, Commissioner Carney seconds.
 - i. In Favor: Drake Pusey, Griffin Jones, Hira Ambreen, Kristen Bauer, Crystal Beauchemin, Christine Carney, Sharon Grossman, Rajeev Soneja
 - ii. Oppose: none
 - iii. Abstain: none
- 3. Community Input- None
- 4. DEI Updates
 - a. New FY budget sheet has been set up for AHRC, AHRC has \$7431.07, revolving fund has \$1827.57.
 - b. DEI team has developed a detailed guide on events, including templates for thinking through goals, outreach, accessibility and language access, budgeting and tips. The budgeting process in particular will take more time with new processes, so start early.
 - c. The Comptroller's office is reviewing reimbursements closely so speak to DEI early about any potential reimbursements.
 - d. For communications renewable costs, DEI needs to be alerted as these arise including with receipts.
 - e. For Swifty costs, consider opening a purchase order for the year instead of event by event.
 - f. Changing to an Amazon business account for the town, so that process will be different. Time involved will be longer.
 - g. Diwali event: being handled by DEI.
- 5. Incidents & Complaints
 - a. Commissioner Updates
 - i. Regarding a housing case, Town Counsel advised that the AHRC can provide a letter. But the letter is no longer needed by the tenant. However, Commissioner Soneja is drafting a letter to document the situation and then Co-Chairs and DEI will review.
 - ii. Commissioner Key provided important support regarding a case involving an Uber driver.
 - iii. Commissioners Ambreen and Beauchemin are providing support regarding a hate case, but need to hear results of the investigation from School Resource Officer White. He will be back on school duty at the end of the week. Commissioner Grossman can reach out to the School DEI officer. The family can also fill out a bullying form and start that process.
 - iv. Anti-black hate speech on Mill Street involving ongoing dispute among neighbors. No direct support from AHRC needed.
 - v. APD has offered to have one of their clinicians to present to the AHRC on their role and processes.
 - vi. Two Islamophobia incidents: (1) During a stand out in early August, verbally harassment for two minutes and (2) In July at Robbins Park, the reporter experienced hateful and violent language from two men.
 - b. APD Updates
 - i. July 25, six motor vehicles were spray-painted with different racial slurs/drawings. Under investigation but no video available.
 - ii. 3 new officers.
 - iii. National Night Out successful.

- iv. Citizen Advisory Council meeting with a lot of information shared.
 - v. 3 Captains and Chief will attend a civil rights symposium.
6. Co-Chairs Report
- a. Sent letter to AHS regarding Romeo and Juliet film.
 - b. Retreat scheduling
 - i. Sept 15, 1:00-4:00 PM with a dinner
 - ii. Facilitator hired (DEI Director of Lynn)
 - iii. Commissioner Carney will identify a room and determine food options
 - c. Retreat budget
 - i. Vote: Commissioner Soneja motions to approve facilitator's fee, Commissioner Carney seconds.
 - 1. In Favor: Drake Pusey, Griffin Jones, Hira Ambreen, Crystal Beauchemin, Christine Carney, Sharon Grossman, Rajeev Soneja
 - 2. Oppose: none
 - 3. Abstain: Kristen Bauer
7. Announcements
- a. NEAT dinner was successful, good discussions at AHRC table.
8. Adjournment
- a. Vote: Commissioner Soneja moves to adjourn, Commissioner Grossman seconds.
 - i. In Favor: Drake Pusey, Griffin Jones, Hira Ambreen, Kristen Bauer, Crystal Beauchemin, Christine Carney, Sharon Grossman, Rajeev Soneja

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 16, 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.