

Human Rights Commission Meeting 3/22/2018

Members present: Matthew Charity, Elizabeth Cahn, Sophia Maldonado, Sid Ferreira, Emily Boutilier, Tristan Whalen

Absent: Sovann-Malis Loeung Others present: None

Meeting called to order at 5:55pm

Agenda

Agenda Review/Additions

Old Business

February Minutes approved as submitted (Sid moved; Tristan 2nd, all in favor)

1. Sanctuary Committee follow up. See notes under Reports below.

New Business

1. Reports of Town Committee/Community Organization liaison roles

a. Sanctuary Committee

Sid reports a meeting with Russ coming up next Tuesday, March 27, at which there will be a discussion of implementation of the plan. Another meeting will be scheduled in the not-too-distant future. Sid will keep us informed about this.

b. Health Department

Elizabeth was in communication by email with Julie Federman to ask if the Board of Health is working on any human rights-related issues or would like any support from us. Julie thanked us for the support and said nothing relevant is on their plate at this time. The Board of Health has been addressing various code violations, adult use marijuana regulations, and fluoride. They are also thinking about gun violence as a public health issue. Elizabeth will ask for an update on progress on the Musante Health Center for our next meeting.

c. Schools and Churches

Emily attended the recent ARHS walkout on gun violence prevention. It was organized by students and was very successful and moving. ARHS will also hold an event on April 4 to mark the 50th Anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

d. Colleges and Universities

Sophia reached out to various groups, organizations, and departments at Amherst College. She has not heard back from anyone yet. Matthew will also coordinate with his contacts who also organize events at Amherst College from time to time.

e. Housing Trust

Sid reports that two articles are being supported for upcoming Town Meeting related to having affordable units in new construction in the center of town. Zoning, housing, and affordability are strongly related. Many young families cannot afford to live in Amherst due to loss of affordable units and lack of replacements that are appropriate. Affordability should also take into consideration that many local families may be supporting relatives and/or sending remittances to families in other locations such as Puerto Rico.

2. Upcoming Events:

a. There will be a Pioneer Valley Social Justice community event on June 22, 2018 – Matthew will keep us informed.

b. Walk for a New Spring – Matthew will coordinate with the organizers of this event (takes place from March 16 to April 16).

c. 4th of July Frederick Douglass Speech Reading
Ingrid will be returning to this area in April and we will reach out to her about support and planning for this event.

d. Human Rights Heroes Awards – distribution of responsibilities

We discussed and revised the timeline for various tasks:

--Event is Sunday, June 3, 10am to 1pm.

--Request for nominations will be drafted/revised by Emily and distributed in mid-April.

--Nominations will be due May 18.

--Review of nominations will take place between May 11 and May 25.

--Review may start before all applications are received.

--Notifications and press release will be done during the last week of May.

--Food shopping will be done on Saturday, June 2.

Other Business

Any other topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate 48 hours before the meeting.

There are three Citizen Activity Forms in the queue.

Announcements

Adjourned 7:05pm

Elizabeth Cahn

Note taker