

Human Rights Commission Meeting
November 21, 2013
First Floor Meeting Room, Bangs Community Center, 6:30- 8:30pm

Agenda

Opening/Welcome:
Agenda Review/Additions

Old Business:

1. Review and Approve Minutes of October 2013 minutes (6:30-6:40)
2. Priorities for HRC engagement and action for FY 14 and FY 15 (6:40-7:40)-settling on programs and establishing draft budgets, timelines and volunteer assignments to carry out.

New Business:

1. HRC Budget for FY 15-Carol Ross submission
2. Draft Resolution on Right to Organize
3. December 10 Human Rights Day events
 - a. Town of Amherst
 - b. Amnesty International
 - c. City of Northampton
 - d. Consideration of continuing community discussion on Human Rights and Public Safety--with Fire Department or Supt of Schools (postponed)

Other Business: Any other topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate 48 hours before the meeting
8:15-8:30

Next Meeting: November 21, 2013

HRC Human Rights Commission (9 members/3 yrs) (Staff Liaison: Radway)

Name	Term Begins	Term Ends
Anderson Kathleen	2006	2015
Askew Ingrid	2012	2014
Bascomb Gregory	2013	2016
Brodigan Liam	2012	2015
Jung Emily	2012	2015
Raj Lois	2006	2015
Ross Carol	2012	2014
Damon Mallory	2013	2016
Sid Ferreira	2013	2016

The Amherst Human Rights Commission.
"Human Rights for Every Person Everywhere"

Our mission is to ensure that no power goes unchecked, and that all citizens are afforded equal protection under the law. The Amherst Human Rights Commission has grown to full capacity, with newly established goals and objectives. With a fresh perspective and innovative approach, the Amherst Human Rights Commission seeks to strengthen its community and enhance the lives of its citizens, by promoting social and economic justice and inclusion through means of mediation, education, promotion, access and enforcement of local, state, federal, and international human rights laws and in compliance with the standards set by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Commission aims to work closely with other government and private organizations, community groups and individuals to:

- Investigate alleged human rights infringements or discriminatory practices
- Foster public discourse on human rights
- Research and facilitate educational training programs
- Promote human rights
- Eliminate discrimination
- Acknowledge and reward individuals and organizations committed to promoting human rights.

Amherst Human Rights Commissioners

- Greg Bascomb, Chair
- Emily Jung, Secretary/Clerk
- Kathleen Anderson
- Lois Raj
- Sid Ferreira
- Carol Ross
- Ingrid Askew
- Liam Brodigan
- Damon Mallory

In order to meet these goals, the Amherst Human Rights Commission is requesting an appropriation from the Town of Amherst and pledges to work towards reducing funds needed through collaboration, fundraising and ticket sales where appropriate.

The tables below summarize how resources will be applied.

AHRC Activity	Fiscal Yr 2015 7/1/14-6/30/15
<p>Spring For Human Rights: Dialog & Film Series Invites filmmakers to screen and discuss films relevant to human rights with panel discussions and opportunity for community wide, live and video documented dialog.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Summit (formerly World Café): Film/Video series with speakers and panel discussions& local engagement dialogue • Community Express: street video interviews <p>Wholeness Engagement (WE) Aims to fill gaps within community by establishing communication and building relationships w/leaders, businesses, city officials, families, students and individuals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Partnership initiatives—w/five colleges, high school, business community, superintendent • Community Engagement initiatives—to continue conversations with Police Department & municipal leaders <p>Workshops Disability Etiquette Training, Housing Discrimination Tester Training, Bonding and inclusion Training (Morse Hill)</p> <p>Annual Events Universal Declaration of Human Rights Candle light Vigil, Community Awards Picnic, Black History Month – Unplugged Event(s), Dr. MLK event/celebration</p> <p>Additional Activities 54th Regiment Recognition / Fundraising for Cemetery Plaque for African American Civil War Veteran/Soldiers.</p>	
Expenses	
Training/Staff (trainers, graphics, volunteers)	400
Marketing/Advertising (invites, postage, media, posters, flyers, banner)	800
Speakers/Presenters (accommodations, honorarium)	1500
Technical Services (tech help, equipment, venue fees)	500
Vendors/Equipment (refreshments, catering, stage, sound, lighting)	1200
Supplies (additional art supplies, installation materials, copies)	300
Travel MILEAGE ONLY (@current mileage rate)	200
Special Activities (plaques, awards)	350
Expenses Total:	5250
Income	
Dues & Subscriptions	500
Sales (tickets, fund-raising events)	2000
Donations	300
Income Total:	2750
Funding Request	2500

PROCLAMATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Whereas, the General Assembly of the United Nations endorsed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with no dissenting vote, on December 10, 1948, under the able leadership of an American, Ms. Eleanor Roosevelt; and

Whereas, the Universal Declaration asserts the dignity of the human person; non-discrimination based on race, color, sex, age, language, religion, political opinion, nationality, social origin, property, birth, or other status [such as disability, sexual orientation, or medical condition]; civil and political rights, such as freedoms of thought, speech, belief, and the press; economic, social, and cultural rights, such as rights to employment, food, shelter, and health care; the solidarity of the human race; the notion that every right has a corresponding duty; and the interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights and

Whereas, the Universal Declaration is referred to as the authoritative definition of human rights standards and increasingly referred to as customary international law, which all countries must abide; and

Whereas, the Universal Declaration gave birth to a long train of other declarations and covenants further defining human rights standards, such as the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the International Bill of Rights for Women, and

Whereas, the Universal Declaration avows legal mandates to fulfill human need,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Select Board of the Town of Amherst, does hereby proclaim

December 10, 2013 as HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

In Amherst and the Select Board encourages all Amherst citizens to be mindful of human rights principles and urges all municipal, state, federal, and international bodies to incorporate said principles into their laws and policies as a means to move toward the creation of a human rights culture which is a “lived awareness” of human rights principles. A community reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be held on the North Common at 6pm on Tuesday, December 10 and all are invited to bring a candle and participate.

Voted and signed this third day of December, 2013.

Amherst Select Board
