

Human Rights Commission Meeting
Thursday, June 15, 2017
5:45pm, Room 101, Bangs Community Center

Members Present: Matthew Charity, Emily Boutilier, Ingrid Askew, Sovann-Malis
Loeung, Sid Ferreira, Elizabeth Cahn
Absent: Brenda Mutai, Jessica Maposa
Others Present: Deborah Radway, Director of Human Rights.

Meeting called to order at 5:45pm
Agenda Additions: Ingrid and Sovann-Malis reappointed to Commission

May meeting minutes not complete.

New Business:

1. Upcoming Events: potential recognition of Massachusetts ratification of Fourteenth Amendment on March 20, 1867; Human Rights Heroes Awards; Discussed HRC member roles and assignments.
2. Frederick Douglass recognition on July 1- Ingrid has applied for and received a small grant to offset some costs; logistics all set with Town departments, readers are practicing. Whitney Baptiste to facilitate the discussion.
3. Discussion on partnership opportunities with Town Committees, and commission interest in following up with Committees and Town Offices: Police Department, Town Manager, Health and Community Services, Economic Development, Housing, Sanctuary Committee. HRC would like to continue these discussions. There is value in educating townspeople on human rights issues!
4. Discussion of education opportunities and Commission input, including connections with civic organizations – Point persons with organizations.
 - a. Matthew mentioned that Town Meeting Coordinating Committee is interested in speaking to Commissioners about making town meeting more inclusionary. Members expressed interest in speaking to them about different ways of conducting outreach and what they are doing. As one of our obligations is to advise the town, the Commission felt this should be an on the record discussion at a meeting with a quorum present.
 - b. Charter Commission is accepting and encouraging comments on its draft Charter proposal NOW.
 - c. Commission requested list of liaison assignments be available at September meeting for another review.
5. Affirmative Action Plan update- tabled until September. Deb is asked to send out Definitions and Page of Comments to group.

2017 draft Human Rights Commission Committee Liaison designations:

Police-Matthew, Elizabeth, Sid

Schools- Emily, Sophia

Other HRC's- Sovann-Malis

Housing-Sid, Sovann-Malis

Public Health- Elizabeth

Interfaith- Emily, Elizabeth, Ingrid

Amnesty International & NAACP- Matthew

Meeting adjourned 7:30pm.

Deb Radway,

Notetaker