

Needham Human Rights Committee Minutes

March 21, 2013

Attendance: Marlene Schultz (co-chair), Amelia Klein (co-chair) Cynthia Ganung, Ashok Mehta, Abdul Asmal, Mike Vaughn, Olly Harari, John Schlittler

Guests: Nathan Rosin, Heidi Werther

Amelia Klein chaired the meeting. General introductions were made in order to introduce visitors to members present. Ashok was formally and warmly welcomed as our newest committee member.

1. Minutes

The minutes of January 2013 meeting were approved as presented.

2. Reports

Logo: Amelia reported on the status of the new NHRC logo. Cara Studds, Needham High School art teacher, has assigned some of her classes to work on a logo for us. She is also asking digital art students to participate in the design. We hope to receive potential logos by the April school vacation. The committee will select which design we feel best represents us and our mission. We will acknowledge all the participants who submitted designs to us in some public way.

2nd Annual Diversity Summit: The summit will be held on October 19, 2013. It will be a daylong event. Nathan, Amelia and Sandra were present for the planning meeting. This year the program will be open to delegations and individuals. Last year only delegations were invited to participate. The committee is looking into potential keynote speakers and funding for the event. The next planning meeting will be on April 4, 6-8pm at the School administration building. Other interested residents are welcome to attend and be part of the planning.

3. Old Business

Committee Membership: A discussion took place about filling committee vacancies. We are still in need of 4 members to complete our membership. We do not have representation from tenants or others from the housing authority. It was announced that Charles resigned due to family circumstances. He will be missed.

Immigration Forum: A follow up discussion took place. All those in attendance agreed that it was a well run, informative, and timely program.

Spring Event: We discussed having a viewing of the video, *The Worst of the Worst*, about solitary confinement with a panel discussion. We felt that the video was well done and it would be good to bring awareness of this problem to Needham. Possible panelists might be: ACLU representative, rehab: prison social worker, an academic from criminal justice area, Sheriff Bellotti from Norfolk county, someone from the

Quakers. Publicity should focus on Aseem Mehta, Needham High graduate, co-producer of the film. Dates for the program will be determined by Aseem's schedule and the availability of getting a meeting space. We are hoping for late April or early May, possibly in the evening or a Sunday afternoon.

4. New business:

Members were reminded to complete the on-line training requirement by April 5, 2013. Amelia, Marlene and Abdul have completed the training.

A photo and article about John in the *Hometown Weekly* was shared with the group.

It was decided that a draft of minutes from our meetings should be sent out as soon as possible after the meeting. It is good follow up so we can see action items that need to be completed. Agendas will be sent out just prior to the meetings.

Recorders for subsequent meetings:

April: Mike

May: Olly

June: Abdul

Next HRC Meeting: April 25, 7:30PM

Recorder: Marlene Schultz