

Needham Human Rights Committee Minutes
Minutes
March 20, 2014 7:30 PM
Broadmeadow School Conference Room

Present: Marlene Schultz, Amelia Klein, John Schlittler, Ashok Mehta, Abdul CaderAsmal, Michael Vaughn, Nathan Rosin

Recorder: Ashok Mehta

1. **Minutes** of the February 27, 2014 meeting were approved
2. **Old Business**

Library Grant

Members of the NHRC will continue to help/support the Library for the “Created Equal” series. Amelia and Ashok will be attending the upcoming screening of films on March 22. Ashok will be on the panel discussion on March 30. Other committee members will also attend upcoming events as permitted by their schedule.

Amelia/Ashok will send the web link to the committee members for viewing the film ‘The Freedom Riders’.

Committee Membership

Amelia has been tirelessly pursuing members of the Chinese Friends of Needham to join the NHRC.

Nathan has contacted two high school students to join the NHRC. He is hopeful that one of them will join the committee.

Webpage

Ashok shared a proposal for updating the NHRC webpage. The proposal was well received and some valuable suggestions were made to improve the proposal. Ashok will update the proposal with inputs received from the committee members and the revised proposal will be shared in the next meeting.

Preparation for Meeting with Needham Times

Amelia, Abdul, Marlene and Nathan will attend the event.

3. Reports

• **NHRC Event**

Marlene and Amelia met with Jamie Gutner of the Needham Council on Aging to explore the possibility of co-sponsoring an event. Jamie seems to have shown some interest in a co-sponsored event. Marlene /Amelia will continue discussions with Jamie. They will also search for a potential speaker (and

topic for a panel discussion) for the event. Amelia will contact Caitrin Lynch about her interest in being a keynote speaker for an event planned for November, 2014.

- **Immigration Task Force**

Mr. James Powers had sent a letter to the NHRC regarding his concerns about the immigrant workers in Needham. The NHRC had forwarded the letter to the Needham Area Immigration Justice Task Force. Amelia, and Phyllis Mays and Clark Taylor (of the Needham Area Immigration Justice Task Force) met Mr. Powers. Mr. Powers was made aware about the work done on the issue by the Needham Area Immigration Justice Task Force. Furthermore, a letter that was drafted on the issue by the Task Force for the legislators was shared with Mr. Powers.

- **Diversity Summit**

No Updates

- **Needham High School Incident**

No update on the earlier reported incidents at the high school. Nathan shared with the committee members his efforts on increasing the acceptance of multi-cultural diversity at the high school. His effort led to a meeting with the Superintendent of Needham Schools, Dr. Daniel Gutekanst.

Dr. Gutekanst liked and appreciated the work done by Nathan. Dr. Gutekanst has subsequently set up a Diversity Leadership Board to promote multi-cultural diversity in Needham schools. The first meeting of the Board is scheduled for early April. Nathan (who will be the Board member) will keep the NHRC posted.

4. New Business

Cynthia & Marlene will continue their efforts to get a committee member from the Needham Housing Authority.

Next Meeting: April 17, 2014
Recorder: Abdul Cader Asmal