

Needham HRC Minutes

May 16, 2013

Recorder: Olly Harari

Attending: Marlene Schultz, Amelia Klein, Cynthia Ganung, Nathan Rosin, Ashok Mehta, Abdul CaderAsmal, Olly Harari

Minutes of our April 25 meeting approved.

Nathan Rosin will become an official member of our committee. Welcome!

The group agreed that our last program “The Worst of the Worst” was very good. It was well attended (61 people) and the combination of a short film with diverse panelists worked well. Cynthia noted that if we had only 3 panelists we could have had more time for questions. Abdul shared his reflections on the film, noting how unknown solitary confinement is and how lightly it has been used instead of being strictly limited to exceptional cases. Amelia mentioned that Sandy Cincotta was very helpful in getting the town hall ready for the program. Amelia shared that her experience of planning for the program was labor intensive. The group agreed that for future events we would like to have at least 3 months to plan and more members to share the work.

Amelia reported that the Needham Times advertised our program only on the day of the event, even though she sent the information 3 weeks in advance. Marlene suggested that Amelia personally contact the editor, Valentina Zic, to find out how future events can be publicized better. Nathan will ask Paul Wexler, the HS teacher that attended the program, if he is willing to write a review and send it to the Needham Times.

Amelia updated us on the Needham HS art student logo project. In a conversation with the Director of the Arts Department, she was informed that the HS art teacher and her students were very disappointed about the HRC decision not to use their designs. Amelia explained to them that we have decided to use the international HR logo. The Director expressed his concern that our decision might have a major effect on any future cooperation between our committee and the HS. Cynthia suggested that we choose one logo and use it for our events publicity. By doing that we will

respect the student's effort and meet their expectations. Nathan added that it would be meaningful to use a Needham resident's artwork for NHRC. Ashok and Amelia suggested design #12 as their preferred logo and the majority of the attending members chose it.

Amelia reported that the Diversity Summit has asked Abdul CaderAsmal, our own member!, to be the next summit keynote speaker and he accepted.

We talked about our next event. The subject is: What are Human Rights? The idea is to show a short film (9 minutes) made by United for Human Rights (URH) and have a speaker. Ashok suggested looking for a very good speaker since the film is simple and basic. The week of November 18 was chosen for the event and depending on availability of location, the library or town hall, the date will be decided. Members agreed to think about the focus of the event, the target audience, and to bring suggestions for a speaker to our next meeting.

Next meeting:

June 20, 7:30pm at Broadmeadow School. Office Conference Room

Recorder: Abdul