

# Needham Human Rights Committee Minutes

October 17, 2013

7:30 PM

Broadmeadow School Conference Room

In attendance: Marlene Schultz, Nathan Rosin, Olly Harari, Cynthia Ganung, John Schlittler, Abdul Cader Asmal, Ashok Mehta, Mike Vaughn, Amelia Klein. *Guest:* Tiger Okoshi

Recorder: Amelia Klein

The meeting was called to order by co-chair Marlene Schultz.

1. **Minutes** of the September 19, 2013 meeting were approved with revisions.

## 2. **Old Business**

**Committee Membership:** Abdul presented his neighbor, Tiger Okoshi, who came to the meeting to learn more about the NHRC. The Committee was impressed with his diverse background and credentials, and encouraged Tiger to consider joining the NHRC. Thank you, Abdul for your initiative. Nathan will invite a high school senior who is interested in the work of the committee to attend a future meeting. Nathan will provide an update.

**Webpage:** Ashok presented a detailed model/draft of a revised NHRC webpage. The Committee was impressed with the content, layout and professional appearance of the webpage that Ashok created! Thank you, Ashok, for sharing your expertise and time in enhancing the quality and image of the webpage. The Committee will continue to work on aspects of the proposed content, such as gathering historical information (searching archives and interviewing previous members), adding photos and bios, gathering information about previous NHRC events, and press coverage. Ashok will contact and present the webpage model to Sandy Cincotta.

**Brochure:** The new NHRC brochure designed by Nathan was copied in Sandy Cincotta's office and is ready for distribution. Thank you Nathan for the time and energy that you devoted to enhancing the artistic quality of the brochure! The brochure will be placed in strategic places, such as a display table at NHRC events. Other places suggested were: Board of Health Department, Town Clerk's Office (outside carousal display), and the "Welcome packet" presented to new residents in the Town.

## **November 21 Event: SPOTLIGHT ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

- *Publicity* The event is posted on the Needham Public Library website, and is also highlighted on an information screen in the Library. A flyer was prepared by Gay Ellen Dennett (NPL). Amelia will send the flyer as an attachment to members. Next steps: Amelia will list event in local media calendars; develop a press release with detailed information including bio of guest speaker and distribute it to Needham Times and Hometown Weekly, and to Committee members; make a request to post info on our Town Hall webpage. Committee members are encouraged to promote event via their contacts (e.g. in newsletters, at meetings, group associations). Flyers will be handed out at Diversity Summit on October 19. Cynthia will distribute hard copies at Clergy Association meeting in November. Nathan suggested that we invite reporters to cover the event. Amelia will contact them. Nathan will post info in “News from the Hill”, contact Paul Wexler, Jonathan Bourn, Patrick Galliger and Stephen Plasko – NHS faculty.
- *Room Set-up* Requests for equipment and room set up have been submitted to Library. Two tables will be located in back of room, one for our information materials and one for refreshments. *The Committee agreed to arrive at 6:45 PM to set up the room.*
- *Refreshments* Marlene, Cynthia and Amelia will prepare baked goods. Olly will purchase drinks, cups, napkins and additional refreshments (she will check with “bakers”) with available funds.

### **3. Reports:**

**Diversity Summit:** All Committee members plan to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Diversity Summit on October 19 at Pollard Middle School. *The Committee is honored and proud that Abdul will be the guest speaker!* A table will be set up with the NHRC display board, brochures, sign-up sheet, and flyers promoting the NHRC Nov. 21 event. The Committee decided not to respond to a racially motivated comment posted on Needham Patch in reference to the Diversity Summit because it would draw further attention to the racist content of the blog. The Needham Diversity Summit Planning Committee will follow-up on the incident.

### **4. New Business:**

**Library Series: CREATED EQUAL Grant:** Marlene spoke with Dana Mastroianni at the Needham Public Library about NHRC collaboration in a National Endowment for the Humanities grant project which explores the history of civil rights in America through four films. Dana asked for help in finding scholars to lead a discussion following each of the films. The Committee had reservations about the proposed plans for presenting the series of films, such as the needs/interests of the audience in organizing and presenting the film events.

(One film was 3 hours in length.) While the NHRC does not have the resources to fully engage in the entire series, the Committee would like to support the Library in this endeavor. Marlene will contact Dana and discuss possibilities for collaboration and suggest ways we could participate in the planning and presentation of one of the shorter films.

**November Meeting:** The committee agreed to schedule attendance at the NHRC event SPOTLIGHT ON HUMAN RIGHTS in lieu of a meeting. The next meeting will be held on December 19 at Broadmeadow School.

**5. Other:**

Scheduling of Recorders:

Dec. 19 Cynthia  
Jan. 16 Olly  
Feb. 27 Nathan  
Mar. 20  
Apr. 17  
May 15  
June 19

**Next meeting: December 19, 2013**  
**Recorder: Cynthia**