

NEEDHAM HRC MINUTES – September 18, 2014

Broadmeadow School Conference Room

Recorder Abdul CaderAsmal

Present – Amelia Klein, Cynthia Ganung, Ashok Mehta, Bud Schram, John Schlittler, Marlene Schultz, Michael Vaughn, and Abdul CaderAsmal. *Guests:* Marco Meriggi, Qi Guo , Christopher Zhu

Minutes of the June 19, 2014 were approved with a minor change.

Old Business

Committee Membership –With the resignation of Olly Hariri because of other commitments, and the departure of Nathan Rosin to college, the Committee has a vacancy for 4 additional members. Amelia has reached out to a potential student recommended by Nathan, and active in the Diversity Committee; if he cannot accept Amelia will approach the Principal. Mr. Mario Meriggi attended as a guest and will continue to do so till he is certain that he can contribute positively.

Webpage – Ashok will follow up with the Town to confirm the email address.

Brochure – is complete except for the email address; Mike volunteered to expedite the process before the Diversity Summit. It was decided to await the formal input from the Town.

Forthcoming Events

There are several events in which the HRC is involved in over the next few months:

Public Forum for Affordable Fair Housing: September 23 at 500 Dedham Avenue at 7:00 PM

Diversity Summit: The third Annual Diversity Summit has been scheduled for Saturday October 18 from 8.30 am to 3.00 pm. The NHRC is a co-sponsor of the annual event. The Summit is now organized by the newly created Diversity Summit Committee made up of the ad hoc Diversity Summit Planning and MLK Committees. Amelia who serves on the Committee painted an enthusiastic picture of the program with a video depicting various residents staking their claim to, “I am Needham!”

Older Adults: Thinking About Human Rights: This presentation is scheduled for November 6 at 7.30 pm at Olin College. The sponsors include the NHRC, Olin College, and possibly The Council on Aging, and North Hill. Professor Caitrin Lynch, who is Professor of Anthropology at Olin College, is making efforts to get Governor Patrick to make the keynote delivery.

Needham Area Immigration Justice Task Force: Domestic Workers Rights Forum on November 13, 2014 (Eleanor Shore is coordinating); Place Needham Public Library; featured speaker is Attorney Lydia Edwards: Theme: Massachusetts New Domestic Worker Rights Law: What Does It Mean To You? Co-sponsored by the NHRC and League of Women Voters. The NHRC is a co-sponsor and will offer assistance in setting up the event.

New Business

Proposal by Mr. James Hugh Powers: Mr. Powers asked the NHRC to support his efforts to introduce an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This request was tabled by the Committee for lack of clarity of his expectations and their concern that such endorsement was outside the scope of their Charge. Amelia will contact Mr. Powers to determine what kind of support he would like from the Committee in light of the limits of their responsibilities as a Town committee.

Invitation of guest speakers. Marlene raised the issue of inviting special guests to speak to the HRC on various aspects of human rights. This was agreed upon. Abdul suggested that in view of a virtual epidemic of domestic violence in society we should perhaps have a guest speaker address this and maybe follow up on this theme for the next HRC Event. John indicated that the Board of Health would be a contact for information about the "Domestic Violence Action Committee." Marlene said that she had in mind a speaker from Iran to address the problem of violence against women in Iranian society. Others felt we could not ignore our own domestic problems.

Other

Olly's article about the NHRC was submitted to the Needham Times as a "guest column." The editor has not responded- Amelia will contact her again.

Next Meeting October 16 : Recorder Cynthia Ganung