

## **Human Rights Commission Minutes of November 14, 2018**

### **Members Present:**

Chris Kelly, Mayanne Briggs, Joseph Borsellino, Robert Blaney, Margaret Mathews, Lianne Manos, Amy Lafont, Russ Poole, Officer Michael Buckley, Margaret Adams, Diane Loud

**Meeting Convened:** 6:10 PM

### **Public Input:**

Caroline Angel-Burke, Vice President for Education and Visitor Experiences of the Edward Kennedy Institute, shared an event that is upcoming. The Church of the Good Shepherd will share the film, *Condemned to Remember*, on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:30-6:30 PM. Discussion will follow the showing of the film. It tells the story of a Irish Holocaust survivor and connects to other events history. Motion made and seconded to support the event. Motion passed unanimously.

Caroline Angel-Burke also shared an educational program. *Share a Seat at the Table*, from Edward Kennedy Institute, that provides a community workshop for students and groups to help consider community involvement by all citizens.

The Dedham Human Rights Commission reviewed the proposed Human Rights Commission mission statement that would read:

The Human Rights Commission supports and promotes the basic human right of all members of our community to enjoy equal opportunity to participate in and enjoy life in Dedham.

Motion made and seconded to support the mission state. Motion passed unanimously to support the mission statement.

Joe Borsellino shared an event, the Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, on December 5<sup>th</sup> event from 9 AM and 1 PM at the Italian American Club and December 12<sup>th</sup> 9 AM -1 PM to focus on climate action planning.

Motion made to approve the minutes of October 17, 2018, one abstention from Russ Poole who did not attend the meeting. Motion passed.

Joseph Borsellino, Chair of the Human Right Commission, checked in with members to make sure they are receiving notices. He asked that members not reply all to emails and instead email him specifically as chair.

Joseph Borsellino, Chair, asked that members of the HRC consider possible contacts to add to a collection to helps serve as a resource for families in need.

At 6:42 PM, the Human Rights Commission joined the Dedham Public Schools Equity and Inclusion Task Force.

Mr. Mike Welch, Dedham Public Schools Superintendent, shared a letter addressed to families of the elementary school that explains the vision of the schools to insure that the music programs during the winter concerts will be inclusive all students beliefs and interests.

Mr. Mike Welch also introduced Dr. Maria Veronica Zapater-Raberov, a licensed bilingual Spanish/English psychologist, who has been working with the Dedham Public Schools to serve bilingual speaking families.

Mr. Welch also shared the mission statement of the Equity and Inclusion Task Force. The group discussed how to be inclusive of students with disabilities. The group tentatively decided on the use of "individuals with different abilities."

The Human Rights Commission and the Dedham Equity and Inclusion Task Force discussed the Dr. King Celebration Monday, January 21, 2019.

The following are donations were discussed for the Dr. King event:

- Salem Foods will donate pasta and ribs
- Kings will donate pulled pork sandwich and meatballs
- Halfway Café will donate. Wings.
- Ocean State Job Lot will provide a gift card for \$200
- MIT Endicott House will provide two trays of cookies.
- Officer Buckley contacted Legacy Place, which will provide at least 4 vendors.
- Café Fresh Bagel will donate bagels for the event.

Margaret Adams will write an article for inclusion in the Dedham Times in regards to the Dr. King event and the Human Rights Commission.

Mike Welch reached out to Jeff Buldoc, Director of Fine Arts, for the student music performance.

A draft flyer for the event was shared. Officer Buckley will share map of places where individuals could park for the event.

Jan Civian from Livable Dedham will help support a volunteer fair from 5:30-6:30 PM to possibly be located in the middle school library.

Dedham Public Schools has begun to sponsor an essay contest with the winners the reading at the event. Mr. Welch will be working with the school's leadership team to discuss the contest and means for students to participate in the celebration. Mr Welch will discuss ways for every school to become involved.

Riverdale School has a photo exhibition "In Our Family" that highlights different types of families. Individuals are encouraged to visit and view the exhibit.

Photo Voice, from 4-8 PM opening on November 15, 2018, at Motherbrook Community Arts will display a series of student photographs of the impact of the substance abuse.

Russ Poole asked that specific spots be available up front for those with handicapped placard.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:38 PM

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Margaret Adams, Clerk Human Rights Commission