

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes June 26, 2019

Attendance: Margaret Adams, Chris Kelly, Diane Loud, Joe Borsellino, Margaret Matthews, Lianna Mannos

The meeting was convened at 7:08 PM.

Members of the Allin Congregational Church presented during public comment. They are developing a vision statement for their work for the next two years. Their vision aligns with the purpose of the HRC to support Dedham in becoming an inclusive community. Their next step is to create an implementation team to support the development of their vision. The HRC discussed some ideas how communities of faith could come together such as perhaps interfaith services, supporting communities in need with resources, etc.

The chair shared that the HRC is able to take gifts and donations. The HRC is not authorized to fundraise. The gift and donations are then voted and approved by the Select Board. If accepted, the donor's check is given to the Director of Finance. The check is then deposited into one of two types of accounts, a general account for HRC or a special purpose account. The HRC is also able to establish a Friends of Dedham HRC, a 501 C(3) to receive donations and fundraise. Joe Borsellino will seek out local attorneys who have done this work in the past with other Dedham groups to determine if they are able to help. He will report back to the full HRC.

Joe Borsellino, Chair, met with Nancy Baker, Interim Town Manager. He updated the HRC on the postings for positions whose terms are expiring. Any commissioners whose terms are expiring should send a request to Nancy Baker indicating that they wish to continue in the role in a three year position.

Art logo contest has been approved by the Interim Town Manager. The purpose is to have a logo contest for the HRC. At the beginning of September, we could also have a teaser about the art logo contest. At Dedham Day, we would announce the art logo contest including having young people create logos at the table.

Margaret Matthews shared a version of how to possibly organize the resource guide using Google Sheets. Ms. Matthews will continue the formatting of the resource guide and share with the full commission. The goal is to have a completed draft by next meeting and then place on the website.

The next meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, July 31st. Additional meetings are scheduled for August 28th, September 25th.

Amy Wax LaFont is scheduled to write the July article focused on immigration rights. Homelessness and housing would also be a great topic. Margaret Matthews will plan to write the article for September on affordable housing needs. Margaret Matthews discussed the need to educate the Planning Board on the actual impact of affordable housing in new developments.

Margaret Adams, Chris Kelly, and Will Dasche attended the Library Trustees meeting this month. The Library Trustees agreed to work on a collaboration between the two groups. Monika Wilkinson was assigned as a liaison. They will also identify a staff member to work with the team and determine possible ways for the two groups.

Joe Borsellino met with Sarah MacDonald from the Select Board to discuss the 2020 Census Count materials. Select Board Member MacDonald will ask the full board to approve the HRC request to use materials to communicate broadly with communicate the importance of completing the Census.

Margaret Adams will draft an annual report to submit to Select Board for the full review of the HRC.

The Human Rights Commission adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Adams, Clerk Human Rights Commission