

**Human Rights Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes: October 30, 2019**

**Attendance:** Joe Borsellino, Michael Buckley, Chris Kelly, Rob Blaney, Margaret Matthews, Margaret Adams, Philjay Somera Solar

**MLK Event**

HRC spoke with Superintendent Mike Welch and School Committee Josh Donati. The date of the event would be on January 20th.

Margaret Adams will email Jan Civian to see if Liveable Dedham would like to continue to coordinate the volunteer fair. Margaret Adams will contact Dedham Cultural Council to see if we can extend Cultural Grants application into new school year.

Snow date will be on January 26th Sunday at the same time.

Michael Buckley will create a map of area parking lots. Mike Welch will arrange for van and driver to any satellite parking spots. Parking spot high school end zone, Mt. Vernon tennis court lot, Saint Mary's Lot, and Avery School.

Essay contest point persons will be Brenda Hagan and Heather Smith at Dedham Public Schools. Mike Welch will alert them of the contest again.

Rob Blaney will arrange for \$500 for pizza and water. Rob Blaney will reach out to Kings and Halfway Cafe. Philjay will contact Stop and Shop. Chris Kelly will reach out to TGI Fridays, Blue Ribbon, Wegmans. Margaret Adams will reach out the Whole Foods. Joe Borsellino will reach out to Star Market, Cafe Bagel, and Salem Foods. Mike Buckley will reach out to Ocean State and Panera. Margaret Matthews will reach out to Costco and BJs.

Joe Borsellino shared the following three potential speakers:

- Geraldine Hines was the first Black appointee to the Massachusetts Supreme Court.
- Margaret Burnham is a judge, former attorney of the NACCP.
- Gloria Wright Hammond is a pastor and has combined medical experience.
- Yvone Spicer is the mayor of Framingham, first African American mayor in Massachusetts.

All agreed that any of the speakers would be great addition.

Dedham Equity Inclusion Task Force will shift towards a focus on students. Josh Donati told the group that there will be an announcement at an upcoming school committee meeting.

Superintendent Welch shared that in the future there are plans to provide training to teachers and other staff to support understanding of implicit bias and cultural understanding.

The Blue Hills Adult Education program now houses the adult ESL programs, which includes a majority of Dedham residents.

### **Suitcase Stories**

Sarah Vasquez shared a proposal in collaboration with the Dedham Women's Club and other groups. There would be two meetings. The first meeting would ask each civic group to send a representative from their group to discuss the diversity of the community and how different populations are served. Vanessa Hall, the International Movement of Trust, would facilitate the second workshop to help bridge the continued conversation. The project would continue with the Institute of New England's Suitcase Stories. The stories share the perspective of diverse immigrant voices. Sarah Vasquez has already had some in-kind donations and has submitted a grant to the Dedham Cultural Council. The HRC approved unanimously a motion to support the project in the future.

### **New Member**

Philjay Somera Solar, J.D. is the newest at large member of the HRC and introduced himself to the committee. He is currently a Massachusetts Commissioner on the Asian American to advocate for the needs of Asian Americans in the state.

### **Public Comment**

Katie Kane-Leach addressed the commission. She is currently working on disability rights.

### **Art Logo**

The HRC reviewed the entries and narrowed the entries to six. The finalists will be shared with the HRC and voted at the next meeting.

### **I Am Dedham Video Series**

The HRC will sponsor once a month on the first Wednesday at Dedham TV a series of short 10 minute interviews of diverse members of the HRC. Joe Borsellino, Diane Loude, and Margaret Adams will conduct the first interviews on Wednesday, November 6th.

### **One Book, One Community**

Meeting was held with DLIT, DPL staff, and Library Trustees. The focus will be on anxiety and depression. Book to be announced at January MLK event. One book will be chosen for adults, high school, middle school, and elementary age children. During the month of March, the hope is to have at least three events on the topic to help generate community wide discussions. Reasons to Stay Alive by Matt Haig and [On Edge: A Journey Through Anxiety](#) by Andrea Petersen are two of the books being considered for adults. Next meeting is November 12th at 7 PM at DPL main branch. Margaret Matthews will attend on behalf of the group.

### **Next Meeting:**

November 20, 2019 and December 18, 2019

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Margaret Adams, Clerk

