

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes February 26, 2020

Attendance: Margaret Adams, Chris Kelly, Diane Loud, Joe Borsellino, Margaret Matthews, Officer Michael Buckley, Amy Wax Lafont, Rob Blaney, Philjay Somera Solar

The meeting was convened at 7:05 PM.

Minutes were approved for the January 2020 meeting.

Dr. King Celebration Debrief

Joe Borsellino sent thank yous to all of the vendors and the Dedham Public Schools staff which included some photos from the event. Chris Kelly will post photos from the event on the DHR Facebook page. Rob Blaney added that he would like to have more teens attend from the high school. The dancers were a nice addition to the event. The student presenters were outstanding in their writing. Perhaps, the keynote should also perhaps have a call of action. Is there also a way to use the event to ensure that elected officials engaged more in the event?

One Book Dedham

One Book Dedham events will continue into March. The following are events we would like to encourage the most attendance:

- Thursday, March 5th at 6:30 PM-8:30 PM Mental Health Panel Discussion at the Endicott Estate
- Thursday, March 12th at 6:30 PM-Sleep and Stress Workshop at the Endicott Estate
- March 26th at 6 PM at Dedham Public Library is the Book Discussion group
- Saturday, March 28th-Family Dinner

Discussion with Town Manager

Joe Borsellino spoke with the Town Manager about being able to post on the website and create a dynamic web page that can serve as a resource for the community. He will attend a future meeting as he was not able to make it to tonight's meetings. As a result of One Book Dedham, perhaps, HRC might advocate for a full time social worker to support both the elderly and youth.

Dedham TV, I am Dedham

Next show, Rob Blaney will interview the social worker on staff at the Youth Commission and a trio of students at the middle school. Joe Borsellino also has an additional guest for the March segment. Philjay, Amy and Diane have speakers for the April month.

Dedham Times Articles

Diane Loud will write the article for April focused on mental health. Margaret Matthews will write an article on housing. Rob Blaney will write an article along with the middle school action team on food insecurity.

Other Requests

Nobles and Greenough student is completing a project to work on researching the history of African Americans in Dedham. Joe Borsellino brought her to the Dedham Historical Society.

April 4th at Avery Elementary School from 10-1 PM is the first community event for the Master Plan 2030. It will be important to ensure that diverse voices are present at these events.

Sacco Vanzetti case will have its 100 anniversary this year. They contacted HRC to see if we were interested in supporting the event. At this time, it likely is out of the scope of the HRC's mission.

Joe Borsellino will arrange for us to have a joint meeting with the Needham Human Rights Commission.

Letterhead for HRC

Philjay will work on the designing of the letterhead for a future meeting.

The Human Rights Commission adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Next meeting will be on March 18th at 7 PM. Future meeting dates are April 29th, May 27th, and June 17th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Adams, Clerk Human Rights Commission