

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes June 24, 2020

Attendance: Officer Mike Buckley, Philjay Solar, Amy Wax Lafont, Diane Loude, Joe Borsellino, Robert Blaney, Chris Kelly, Margaret Adams, Russ Poole

The meeting was convened at 6:10 PM.

Minutes were approved for the May 13, 2020 meeting. Roll call was taken and was unanimous.

Diane Loud, Vice Chair of the Human Rights Commission, called the meeting to order 6:08 PM.

Public Input

Michelle Apuzzio, Dedham School of Music Board member, addressed the group and indicated that they were interested in adding more diverse board members to the Dedham Music Board. Henri Gough on Dedham School of Music Board also addressed the HRC.

I Am Dedham

Tuesday, July 7th is the next taping. The focus of the session will be on ensuring we amplify diverse voices. Two of the founders of the Anti-Racism Coalition have agreed to be interviewed for this taping of the show. Margaret Matthews had indicated that she might have a potential guest.

Joe Borsellino met with one of the founders of the Anti-Racism Coalition. They are interested in meeting with the HRC and working in collaboration with us. They as a grassroots organization might also have more flexibility. They have formed several subcommittees that are focused on specific issues.

Book Discussion in Collaboration with Dedham Public Library

The HRC approved a motion to work in collaboration with the Dedham Public Library to lead a town-wide book discussion. Margaret Adams suggested the following text, So You Want to Talk about Race. Joe Borsellino will reach out to the library. The HRC approved to support the event via a role call.

Newbridge and Coalition of Religious Organization

There is a coalition of several churches coming together led by the ADL chapter at Newbridge. They would like to increase the messaging of No Hate in the town and focus on race, sexual orientation, and creeds coming together with the same message of acceptance.

July 4th

Dedham School of Music will do a virtual concert on July 4th. They had outreached about what other songs they might be included in the concert.

Motherbrook Art Project

Motherbrook Art Center would like to do a program called Convergence. Tracy Driscoll is looking for an endorsement of their call for their art to bring in diverse perspectives about the current events in the nation on race and racial justice. Rob Blaney plans to meet with them tomorrow and will report back to the HRC. The HRC unanimously approved supporting the project via a role call. Rob Blaney agreed to communicate with Motherbrook Center for the Arts.

William Gould Memorial

Brian Kenney is leading an effort to create a memorial to Gould and his family. The HRC endorsed the public recognition of William Gould in some way as a town by renaming a meeting room, park, or building in some way. The HRC took Russ Poole agreed to work on this issue.

Dedham Historical Society

Dedham Historical Society is interested in continuing to collaborate with the HRC. Margaret Matthews agreed to work with the Dedham Historical Society and report back.

Town Forum on Race

The Select Board would like to hold a forum on race. They have identified Collette Phillips as a facilitator. The facilitator would like to discuss what topics should be addressed, how many people, and how many sessions. There are possibly three outcomes including amplifying voices of color, listening to each other, and collecting issues of concern. Joe Borsellino and Select Board member Jim MacDonald plan to meet with

Funding

The HRC discussed ways to raise funding. The HRC discussed raising grants. One way to raise funds would be to ask the Select Board and town manager for a small amount of funding in the next budget.

Next meeting July 22nd at 6 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Adams, Clerk Human Rights Commission