

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes July 22, 2020

Attendance: Officer Mike Buckley, Diane Loude, Joe Borsellino, Chris Kelly, Margaret Adams, Russ Poole, Mayanne Briggs, Aidan Healy, Margaret Matthews, Robert Blaney

The meeting was convened at 6:10 PM by Joe Borsellino, Chair.

Minutes were approved for the June meeting. Roll call was taken and was unanimous.

Joe Borsellino, Chair of the Human Rights Commission, called the meeting to order 6:08 PM.

I Am Dedham

The Human Rights Commission discussed perhaps moving to 2 guests 15 minutes. The group discussed the challenges in finding additional individuals to interview. The HRC also discussed whether it might be possible to shift to a issues topic. Margaret Adams will reach out to the Anti-Racism Coalition to see if we can do a show that is focused on a particular issue. Additionally, HRC members will seek out perhaps small panels to discuss particular issues. The next taping is on August 4th. We have Renee Johnson from the Anti-Racism Coalition and also Rob Blaney to discuss the Mother Book Art Project for the August taping. Aidan Healy will also reach out to support a possible group of students for a taping in the future.

Book Discussion in Collaboration with Dedham Public Library

We have not heard back from Dedham Public Library on a possible collaboration. Margaret Adams will reach out to Monika Wilkinson to see if there is a possibility to collaborate in the fall again with the Library Trustees. For now, the HRC agreed to support an 8 week challenge in the community for families and all to have conversations about racism.

Website

Joe Borsellino met with the Town Manager to have discussion about the HRC's website. He is hopeful that we will be able to add additional content soon.

Dedham Historical Society

Joe Borsellino and Margaret Matthews met with the Dedham Historical Society to discuss the inclusion of diverse voices. Margaret Matthews is hoping to get access to some materials. She was able to access some suggested resources and a book they provided. The other project discussed was taking on student interns. Joe Borsellino and Margaret Matthews were able to identify several historical records on slaves and slave owners. There is a wealth of primary and

secondary sources available from the past. They are also archiving current efforts towards anti-racism. The HRC discussed also documenting the experiences of residents with racism.

Motherbrook Art Project

Rob Blaney reported that he met with Tracey Driscoll. He shared an upcoming call for art, Convergence. The goal is to get teens to submit artwork and poetry to that shares their views on equity or the pandemic. The project will end with an outdoor art display. Rob Blaney will also support two fundraisers. August 7th and August 21st will be fundraisers, a movie drive in, to support more programming at Motherbrook for youth including providing scholarships for youth.

William Gould Memorial

The local committee interested in resting a William Gould Memorial met. They completed a survey. The top response for honoring him was a physical memorial. It was communicated that the HRC preferred the naming of a park or physical space that would be a more long lasting and visible memorial. The survey also indicated that the community wanted the inclusion of his life story into the curriculum.

Regional Efforts

Joe Borellino shared that he has been working with the Chief of Police in Dedham and Westwood. There is interest in development of a HRC in Westwood. The HRC discussed a recent in Needham with the police and discussed widely sharing the incident as an example of the need for continued discussion on race.

Anti-Racism Coalition

HRC discussed and agreed to have the Anti-Racism Coalition attend one of our upcoming meetings. Margaret Adams will also communicate to see of their interest.

Interrupting Anti-Racism

The HRC discussed the training being offered by the Anti Drug Coalition on Mondays in August. Margaret Adams will draft a letter to elected officials and boards asking them to attend. Joe Borsellino will then put on the HRC letterhead. Rob Blaney will reach out to the town manager to ask that the information be shared with town employees. Rob Blaney will also share at the meeting of town department heads to encourage attendance.

Town for All

Officer Michael Buckley will be attending the upcoming meeting and will share back with the HRC.

Dedham Times

Joe Borsellino shared information from Philjay Solar that in October there is interest in perhaps a Dedham Times article on Asian American. Michael Buckley will do research on food security.

The Master Plan Committee

Joe Borsellino invited HRC members to begin to think about the topics of the master plan and what ideas to contribute.

MLK Day

The HRC discussed a keynote speaker for the event, Patricia Sanchez-Connolly, from the Anti-Racism Coalition. Chris Kelly will reach out to her to see if she would be interested. Chris Kelly will reach out to Dedham TV to see if they can support a virtual event.

Commissioner Vacancies

Joe Borsellino will check with Nancy Baker to make sure the yearly open positions are posted again.

Next meeting is on August 26th at 6 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Adams, Clerk Human Rights Commission