

## **Dedham Human Rights Commission**

Meeting Minutes: November 21, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Joe Borsellino, Sari Chait, Jim Kaufman, Chris Kelly, Diane Barry Preston, Sgt. Jason Sullivan.

**NEXT MEETING:** The date was moved to Monday, December 12 at 7 p.m., a change from the usual third Monday.

**Approval of September and October Minutes:** Minutes were approved unanimously.

**New Members:** Sargent Jason Sullivan is the new HRC member from the Dedham Police Department, replacing Deputy Chief Mike Buckley; Sari Chait is the new appointee by the Select Board. Jason and Sari introduced themselves to the group.

**Pending Members:** Leslie Sattler, appointee of the Youth Commission, has resigned from the HRC due to a busier-than-expected work schedule; Joe has spoken with Rob Blaney to identify a new candidate. The School Committee continues to try to find someone who can replace Victor Hebert, and the Housing Commission is still working on finding a candidate to replace Margaret Matthews.

**I Am Dedham:** Diane Loud is scheduled to interview members of the Dedham Public Library for the December episode, scheduled to tape on December 13 at 7 p.m. Leslie will still plan to host the January episode regarding Title IX, on January 24 at 4 p.m. Sari and Jason were invited to consider hosting February/March.

**Dedham Cultural Council Grants:** Decisions are pending on our applications for three 2023 grants, for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration, LGBTQ+ Pride Flag Raising Celebration, and Dedham Cultural Festival & Community Picnic. Joe will try to find out when a decision is likely, particularly regarding the MLK Day celebration.

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration:** Joe has reached out to several area groups who've committed to participate with tables at the event, including the Dedham Public Library, Mother Brook Arts Center, and Dedham Museum & Archive. The Dedham Coalition for Equity and Inclusion has also agreed to join us. Livable Dedham is currently on hiatus but may be able to help with some funding.

Jason has secured donations from Starbucks, MIT Endicott House, Café Fresh Bagel, and will speak with Kings. Chris has requested donations from Star Market, Wegmans, and Stop & Shop. Sari will contact Cathay Kitchen and Tahiti Restaurant. Joe has secured Salem Market. Rob Blaney at the Youth Commission has committed to provide pizzas and water. Diane Barry Preston will contact Blue Ribbon BBQ, and Julie is planning to contact Horse Thieves Tavern. Joe will email everyone a Town of Dedham W-9 letter that we can provide to all who donate.

Joe has secured educational consultant Edith Bazile as the keynote speaker. He has already met with her and feels that her life experience and work history will make her a timely and interesting speaker.

Committed performers include the Dedham High Jazz Band, Dedham High School Band, Dedham Choral Society, and Tanya's Dance Studio. The Dedham Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band may also be available. Julie and Margaret are working with Dedham Public Schools on student essays and/or artwork on the theme "On Whose Shoulders Do You Stand?" Joe will contact possible solo vocalists. Chris and Jason will coordinate table cloths, silverware, plates, cups, etc. Joe will bring heating trays etc. Joe has also secured several DPS lunchroom staff who have agreed to work the event, which is confirmed to happen at Dedham Middle School. DMS Principal Karen Hillman will provide a piano. A van driver will assist with the event as well.

**The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.**