

Commission for Diversity and Tolerance

Meeting Notes

October 6th, 2016

Newburyport Public Library

Attendance: Tom Getz, Hannah Wilson, Sheila Trieff, Beth Horne, Peter Blaiwas, Kat Preftes, Kathleen Shaw, Margaret McQuillan, Judy Lacroix, Hannah Wilson,

Guests: Caroline Walsh, Stephanie Walsh (parent)

Call To Meeting 7:35P.M.

Check-in Commissions:

S. Trieff-Clergy group update. S. Trieff met with Brent Fugate, the Associate Pastor at Hope Community Church. He brought a request from the Newburyport Clergy Group. They had approached Superintendent Viccaro to see if they could offer a program for the youth on misconceptions of local religions. It does not appear it will be possible for the schools to offer. We have been asked whether we would like to support the clergy group in offering a program for the general public. S. Trieff will meet with the clergy group on October 19th and will invite them to our next meeting.

T. Getz attended Salem NPFH meeting (1st Tuesday of each month). Tom described a very open relationship with the NPFH committee, the police and the community.

K. Preftes shared a statement drafted to counter the racism shared at the last meeting. Statement about the racial incident was approved. Kat will review with the mayor for approval and if approved it will be submitted to the paper.

P. Blaiwas heard from Councilor Vogel and the name change has been approved (Human Rights Commission) and will be finalized within a week or so. P. Blaiwas will design a logo and a press release will be developed once the name is formally approved.

J. Lacroix offers a diversity program at the jail where she works, "Essex County Special Outreach Academy." She invited all commissioners to take part.

K. Shaw will be in Kenya with Newburyport Youth Services for 8 days. They are taking deflated soccer balls, running shoes, etc.

Minutes: Meetings approved for September 8th.

Day of Service:

- Sheila will check with clergy group when she meets with them on October 19th about whether Sat or Sun is best.
- Kat is checking on possible dates at the schools.
- Kat and Peter will meet with the Community Needs Task Force. Peter will get a summary of the last meeting.

Communication Plan: D. Scott, B. Horne, P. Blaiwas, K. Preftes and H. Wilson met several times to redraft a revised document. The commission voiced support for the new plan. K. Preftes to schedule a meeting with the mayor for review.

One Book/One City: T. Getz provided us with an update. The dates and locations are set

Wet Paint Auction: The event went well. The gross was over \$10,000 with a net of \$4-5,000.

Transgender Film: K. Shaw is in conversation with the schools. Fox News a few weeks ago interviewed a parent whose daughter had voiced concern about the transgender bathroom. H. Wilson to write a letter in support of the bathrooms.

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:45 P.M.