

HRC Meeting Notes September 13, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7.03pm

Attendance: Kat Preftes, Kathleen Shaw, Caroline Walsh, Julia Quintal, Lucas Phipps, Peter Blaiwas, Shawn Flaherty, Marianne Vesey, Thomas Getz, Joey Skiba, Margaret McQuillan, Sheila Trieff, Ahmer Ibrahim

Introductions

Meeting notes from June 14, 2018 meeting, July 13, 2018; and HRC Brainstorming Meeting August 23, 2018 were approved.

Edits/corrections were discussed and approved as corrected.

Ballot Question #3

Lucas Phipps discussed Ballot Question three, which is a referendum on the 2016 Gender Identity public protection law (MA 2047): guarantees equality for transgender individuals regarding restrooms, stores, public places, locker rooms.

Referendum was initiated by **Keep MA Safe**. They were able to get enough signatures to put repeal of the transgender bill on the Ballot

Main donor in support of repealing the law is MA Family Institute. They are clearly against Marriage equality.

If you want to **Keep the Current Law / Protections in place** Need to vote YES on question 3. The wording is confusing. Even though the Ballot question is about repealing the current law, a vote of yes keeps the current law and transgender protections. A no vote repeals the current law and transgender protections.

Massachusetts is known as progressive and welcoming. Also the city of Newburyport known as this. Would like to see a resounding win here as well as statewide.

Ballotopedia has objective information about the bill. They present both sides of the arguments and points for and against. Encourage all to review this site.

Freedom MA is running the opposition campaign.

They have a Mayors coalition – Lukas has sent HRC an email encouraging Mayor Holaday to sign on.

Meeting with HRC commissioners Preftes and Ibrahim and the Mayor is in process of being scheduled to discuss this and other items with the Mayor.

Lucas suggests Letters to the Editor (LTE) from various sources: Clergy support, individuals, groups.

HRC actions: LTE, Facebook, signs, link Freedom MA site on our FB page, letter to chamber of commerce supporting this

YWCA Anti Racism Film Series

Marianne Vesey presented on this film series.

Reason: Anti Racism affinity Group. Grew out of Marian Levy and Katherine Blake's anti racism group. Series will be at the NBT Senior center

They are asking to partner with YWCA and HRC for this series.

Does not involve \$\$ from HRC.

They would like HRC members to present at the four films with literature about the HRC to hand out at the films

Oct 16, Oct 30, Nov 20, Nov 27 (630p-830p)

Flyer was shown to us. We will obtain an electronic copy and post on our FB and webpage.

Know Your Neighbor

Kat stopped by Market Basket – Kat has form to get permission to film outside the store. Likely October – will request a Saturday.

Tannery: Sunday Sept 23rd or 30th suggested.

Sheila will call David Hall and see what is available.

Likely am 10-12 time slot while Farmers Market is in session.

Will not be present at Farmers Market directly due to fees involved.

Dunkin Donuts

Sheila will f/u with manager on this.

Avita – Tom spoke with them. They welcome us coming. Director was planning to select individuals who she thinks would be best suited for this. As such, Avitia needs to find out about time and dates to organize. Unfortunately the director passed away suddenly and recently. Will need to reach out to new director and regroup.

J. Groskin mentioned that October 5 High schoolers looking for volunteer opportunities. Lynne Coady coordinating. They will be available for 2.5 hrs – up to 12 kids/ with an advisor. We are looking to get the school students involved via this vehicle. Many have AV experience

Peter – Will work on contact with Opportunity Works

Kelleher Park – Chris Kane is new director, replacing Nancy Earls who has stepped down from this position. Will touch base with her for future sessions if residents feel comfortable.

NBPT Housing Authority → Low Income Senior Housing (Horton Terrance, Sullivan Building).
Dates WED afternoon Horton Terrance was recommended by the director b/c that is the day the beautician comes to the site.

Student Subcommittee

Creating group regarding mentoring.
Had meeting with Tina Los today
Will work on doing an afterschool mentorship group

Will try to involve the students into helping put together a pride event for next year pending approval from the Mayor.

Meeting note schedule

We will pre-assign individuals to take notes at each of our upcoming meetings.

Sept 13 – Ahmer
Oct 11 – Sheila
November – Margaret
December – Peter
January – Tom
February – Kathleen
March – TBD
April – TBD
May -- TBD
June – TBD

Commissioner Check In

Kat spoke about the recent Gun violence play – The Burials
Was excellent and very well received.
Was going to go to Exeter and other places however the playwright stated no to going forward due to an all-white cast

Ahmer

Bus incident – elementary school bus where racial slurs were heard coming from 2nd graders. A 5th grader reported this to her mother. Was discussed with Bus driver and school administration who rapidly responded to the issue in a very positive manner