

Newburyport HRC  
January 10, 2019

Attendance: Peter Blaiwas, Tom Getz, Camille Gimbrere, Ahmer Ibrahim, Margaret McQuillan, Katie Nye, Kat Preftes, Rose Robinson, Eileen Ryan, Sheila Trieff

Next Meeting: February 14th

**Meeting called to order: 7:18pm**

**2019 Events:**

1. Peace Prize: Proposed date is Wednesday, April 24th.
  - Needs approval by Mayor.
  - Application materials need updating and distribution to school principals.
  - Individual school submissions (2 nominees) need tracking by Commissioners
  - Prizes and fundraising:
    - \$50 Jaberwacky gift card per student
    - \$100 donation to favorite charity per each of 2 adults
  - Possible sources for adult nominees:
    - Women in Action Huddle
    - Newburyport Rise
    - Our Neighbors' Table
    - Institution for Savings, Pat Connolly
    - Brazilian support coordinator
    - Newburyport Clergy Association
    - Rabbi Ben Resnick for Pittsburgh shooting commemoration
  - Kat ACTIONS:
    - Confirm date with Mayor.
    - Update and circulate paperwork.
    - Update IC Principal.
2. Holocaust Memorial at Firehouse
  - Kat ACTION: Contact John at Firehouse for HRC involvement and possible youth inclusion.
3. Iftar: Possible dates are Wednesday, May 15th or May 22nd.
  - Ahmer ACTION: Follow-up on workable date.

#### 4. Youth Involvement EVENT

- Cam and Margaret commented on the value and impact of youth writing and perhaps a separate event could highlight youth talents.

### **“Know Your Neighbor” Plans**

1. The goal of Peter’s letter is to focus on “point-persons” as sources for a wider diverse array of interviewee possibilities. Following includes Peter’s list from Jan 11th email.

#### 2. Commissioner ACTIONS:

- Peter
  - Develop spreadsheet to track contacted sources.
  - Horton Terrace
  - Turning Point (Opportunity Works)
- Margaret
  - Christine Molliter: grew up in Nbpt and is a local teacher and artist
  - Nbpt Choral Society as a back-up
- Tom
  - Police: Marshall Murray suggested Frank Cousins and possibly willing officers.
  - Fire: Chief LeClair
  - Deb Szabo: art community and possibly student interviews
- Kat
  - School Superintendent
  - Cathy Manning
  - City Hall (Contact Richard Jones.)
  - Matt: clergy follow-up
- Sheila
  - Has contacts with long term residents.
- Jenn
  - Teachers who are Nbpt natives
- Ahmer
  - Glee Woodward
  - Heritage Houses
  - Archives at NPL
- Kathleen
  - longtime Nbpt residents

#### 3. Filmmakers: possible contacts

- Kat: neighbor
- Kathleen: Sara Hayden--videographer referral, Joe Santos--videographer referral
- Peter: Rose’s brother
- Tom: documentary award winners at High School
- HUB training proposed for March.

## **Student Subcommittee Update**

- Focus is on female empowerment
- Meeting is at Youth Services on March 21st, 5:30 to 7:30pm.
- Jenn Groskin is advisor.

## **Multicultural Subcommittee**

- Kat, Ahmer, and Eileen will meet and discuss.

## **Check-in with Commissioners**

Margaret mused about how HRC could be more involved with immigration issues. She also recommended a YouTube documentary: “America to me” that tracks 10 people in Chicago through 10 episodes with their experiences with racial diversity.

Ahmer noted that 2 recent transgender admissions to Lawrence General Hospital were treated with sensitivity and respect...a positive development.

Katie’s job involves interactions with immigrants and she recommended possible utilization of performances of “Suitcase Stories” through the International Institute.

Peter and Tom wondered if Immigration could be addressed through a possible KYN interview question: “What can individuals do to stand-up for human rights in our city, state, or country?”

**Meeting adjourned @ 8:39pm.**