

HRC Meeting June 14th (Flag Day)

Final meeting before Summer Break

Present were: A. Ibrahim, K. Shaw, T. Getz, K. Preftes, M. McQuillan, P. Blaiwas, S. Trieff, S. Flaherty, R. Robinson, J. Skiba, R. Kaur

New student members introduced – Joey Skiba and Riya Kaur (both from the Nock Middle School)

General principles of the HRC discussed with our new student members:

Voting members are appointed by Mayor and approved by the City Council. Have to be 18 years old to be a voting member. Liaisons and student members cannot vote.

Currently 3 vacancies

Potential candidate who has expressed interest: Jennifer Groskin (Nock teacher). History/Social studies teacher.

Others that have expressed interest: Jessica Amorosino, Mukhayo Portmann. K. Preftes will reach out to the three individuals this summer with the hopes of filling the vacancies before we reconvene in the Fall.

5/11/18 – Meeting notes approved

5/17/18 - Special meeting regarding recent ICE pickup of an undocumented immigrant in Newburyport meeting minutes were discussed and approved.

M. McQuillan asked for some clarification about previous agenda items in prior minutes.

Iftar Debrief:

Panel had great energy. People were very pleased with the panel and the event This was our 2nd Community Iftar. Community response was very favorable. Disappointed that the Daily News did not write a story about the event. Photos were published. A Letter to the Editor about the event was submitted by the HRC and was printed.

Panel was very diverse and enjoyed participating. Panel ranged from a High School student to individuals that immigrated from places like Kazakhstan and Lebanon. All the panelists expressed great pride in being Americans as well as Muslims.

Donation of \$500 from ICB Wayland helped fund the food and beverages. Remainder will be submitted to Friends for Peace.

Know Your Neighbor

S. Treiff is still in touch with Mr. Russo via email and hopes to set up a in person meeting soon.

Three individuals were recorded for the project at the Iftar. Sound quality was much improved with the boom microphone.

K. Preftes spoke with Council or Connell – we do not need to get explicit permission to tape at outside city locations (Inn Street, Market Square). We just need to email him as a courtesy so he and the Council know when and where taping will occur.

K. Shaw has the video equipment. She will hold onto until Port Media needs returned.

P. Blaiwas will contact Joanne Morris of the NBPT Documentary festival to request that she review the tapings to date and advise us on how to shape the footage into a completed documentary.

Future taping sessions:

Friday June 22nd – Inn Street area near fountain / tot lot. 6pm-8pm – (Tom, Margaret, Peter, Ahmer, Kat, Rose, Joey). Cleared with City Council. This session will highlight Gay Pride / LGBT awareness.

Tuesday July 24th – Rotary club at noon. Location TBD (wherever the Rotary Club will be meeting)

Friday July 13th – Waterfront Boardwalk. 6pm-8pm. Need to clear with Stephen Hines

Saturday August 11 – Cashman Park. 3pm-5pm. (Tom, Ahmer, Margaret, Peter)

Sunday August 19th – Tannery. 10am-12pm (during Farmers Market time). Need to clear with David Hall.

Rose will reach out to the Park Lunch to see if we could tape there or just outside.

Looking towards the Fall, we would like to tape at Market Basket and Kelleher Park. We would also like to do a session with city officials at City Hall. Possibly tape a session at Commune Café during one of Rabbi Ben and Pastor Matt's podcasts.

Pride:

Next year hope to have a Pride Fest in Newburyport. Would like it to be a large community event, perhaps in partnership with the Firehouse.

Focus theme for June 22 Know Your Neighbor will highlight Pride Month and LGBT Awareness. We will have some rainbow balloons and some other décor to highlight this focus. Participants will hopefully be comfortable speaking about LGBT issues. Hope is to make people comfortable by encouraging safe topics like talking about LGBT friends, relatives, neighbors. Other topics could include what Pride Month means to an individual.

Additional Items

No to the Sojourners Trip at this time. Unfortunately it's a very large time and financial commitment. Hope to participate in the future

Gun Violence Film Project – K Preftes will be meeting with the firehouse this week to discuss this further

Student Subcommittee – mentorship program will hopefully begin in the Fall.

Update on Homelessness issues. P. Blaiwas attended some meetings regarding homeless shelters in area and other issues regarding homelessness. Not surprisingly, the solution is not deemed to be more shelters, but in working to provide long term housing for individuals who are homeless. This could be by means of rental assistance, subsidized rents with subsequent increase to market rate, etc.

FY 2018 Wrap up.

All felt we had a very good year. We had many great and powerful events (Peace Prize, Iftar, Holocaust remembrance series). Started partnerships with many great organizations (ICB Wayland, Firehouse). Hope to continue the tradition of hosting community education / awareness events and to have a bigger presence in our community. Know Your Neighbor is off to a slow but good start.

Year ahead:

Retreat in Aug/ Sept: Senior Center likely location. Will have Food and use projector to view some of the Know your Neighbor footage.

Meetings 2nd Thursday of the month, Sept – June. Margaret will work on securing room reservations

Hope to have a city-wide Pride event

Will continue taping for Know Your Neighbor as outlined above. Hopefully by the Fall we will start to work on compiling and editing footage. Will look to Port Media to teach us when the time comes.

In closing, HRC members will try to organize a social outing at some point this summer, ideally to meet for dinner and socialize.

August 23 – HRC “Retreat” and planning meeting for FY 2019

Thursday Sept 13th – First meeting of next FY.