

Human Rights Commission  
Minutes  
15 March 2018

Present: Kat Preftes, Chair, Peter Blaiwas, Thomas, Getz, Ahmer Ibrahim, Margaret McQuillen, Sheila Trieff  
Clergy Association Rep: Matt Willis-Goode  
Student Reps: Hannah Kubat, Rose Robinson, Caroline Walsh  
Guest: Alexa Looker

Meeting was brought to order and minutes of February meeting were approved.

1. Peace Prize

Ceremony planned for **Monday, 4/23/18 at City Hall**. All schools have received notification and application information. Recommendations are due Monday, 4/2/18. Kat will forward emails that have been sent to schools, as well as the application to nominate adult recipients. Tom Getz has already contacted Jan Lorrey Flowers and she is willing to once again donate roses for this occasion.

Follow up emails and calls to school principals will commence this next week with the following assignments:

Bresnahan Elementary- Rose Robinson & Sheila Trieff

Molin Lower- Hannah Kubat & Margaret McQuillen

Nock Middle- Owen Davis & Ahmer Ibrahim

NHS- Caroline Walsh & Tom Getz

River Valley Charter- Katherine Gootkind & Tom Getz

IC- Kat Preftes & Tom Getz

2. Holocaust Remembrance Panel

Three-day event at the **Firehouse, beginning Thursday 4/12/18- Saturday 4/14/18** Each show will feature a "Talkback" with panel members

Thursday 4/12/18 Netty's Story: Every Stitch a Memory 7 pm

<http://www.firehouse.org/see-a-show?m=04&d=12&y=2018>

Friday 4/13/18 I Never Saw Another Butterfly 8 pm

Saturday 4/14/18 I Never Saw ... 3 pm

<http://www.firehouse.org/see-a-show/257-i-never-saw-another-butterfly>

\*If Commissioners have suggestions for questions for the panel discussion after Saturday's presentation, please submit to Kat.

3. City Ordinance, language including immigration accepted by City Council

There was some discussion of those voting against the ordinance indicating their impression "we don't have a problem here."

4. HOPE in Action Initiative- Peter Blaiwas

Next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 4/25/18, 6 pm, Central Congregational Church**. Peter explained the goal of this group is to raise awareness about this issue in our communities.

5. Clergy Association Group update- Matt Willis-Goode

Review of screening of Armor of Light film at St. Paul's, follow up discussion on gun violence. The group's Letter to Editor on gun violence was well received.

6. Student Group- Lisa Furlong, Principal at R.A. Nock Middle School is very interested in the Student Mentorship Program

7. Mini Grants- Fund raising on hold this year.

Using some of the money available to help with the Holocaust Remembrance Panel, and also for **Iftar Program, Wednesday, 5/23/18 at the Senior Center**

8. Know Your Neighbor, Debrief- Ahmer Ibrahim

Suggestions- see addendum, attached

Prospective locations for next public presentation

Kat Preftes: Chris Nye, Central Congregational and Rotary

Sheila Trieff: Martha Hubbard, Among Friends

Other ideas for warmer weather locations{ Brown Square (inviting City Hall workers and Council to stop over) Market Square, and Farmer's Market- all dates to be determined

9. Day of Service

Matt Willis- Goode will meet with Beth Horne to discuss her experience and ideas for future reference. Some discussion on limiting our scope in planning future day of service.

10. Articles

Margaret McQuillan has written an article in response to 2/14/18 Parkland School shooting and ongoing discussions on gun control. Peter Blaiwas has written an article inspired by a previous Commission discussion about the medical community's considerate and just response to LBGQT patients.

11. Check-In

Ahmer Ibrahim shared a copy of a letter he received from a neighbor of the letter's recipient. This was an angry and aggressive communication that left the recipient feeling victimized. There was some discussion about this. Kat Preftes has called the recipient and Ahmer will follow-up with the neighbor who contacted him.

Kat Preftes recommended the Smithsonian Channel's The Lost Tapes, Malcolm X, and, In His Own Words, by Sara Machajewski, about Malcom X was also recommended.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila J. Trieff

Know Your Neighbor-Reflections

### Equipment Checklist

List of all pieces of equipment to be picked up, time to have it returned and a checklist for return, as well, indicating the time of return. Included on the equipment Checklist we should have names and contact information for the Port Media folks, in case we run into any problems.

-When filming, try to have our wonderful banner displayed so the camera can catch it!

-Add telephone # on Authorizations in case we want to make contact

-Have a designated file (and filer) for all authorizations for legal purposes

-Minimum- 5 HRC members, preferably 6

Videographer, Interviewer, Authorization-Meister, Table Person, 6-Word Poem and Host-Type Person

Plan ahead the roles each will start with and whether folks want to switch off midway.

-Easel for Bulletin Board really helped

Bulletin Board- ideas for covering it, painting it, how best to use (pin up some poems for inspiration)

-Post-its didn't cut it! Different colored index cards might be better.

-Things to have on hand:

Nametags

Banner

Brochures

Upstander info handouts

Authorizations

Index cards

8 pens/ pencils

Push-Pins

Scotch Tape

Duct Tape, bungee cords, heavy twine- things to help hang banner or whatever!

okay, just saying, dog treats were a hit!

-Consider videotaping folks willing to share their poems- people who did poems had some great stories and they would have been nice to have had documented (if the video guru is available!)