

Human Rights Commission of Newburyport

Minutes

August 16, 2017

Senior Community Center

Meeting 7:00 P.M.

Attendance: Tom Getz, Sheila Trieff, Beth Horne, Kat Preftes, Margaret McQuillan, Shawn Flaherty, Sheila Trieff, Kathleen Shaw, Ahmer Ibrahim, Owen Davis, Margot Springer, Matt Willis-Goode, Rose Robinson

Guests: Eileen Springer, Ron Peacetree

Call To Meeting 7:06 P.M.

Introductions and Check-In

-Discussed response letter to recent hate/violence in Charlottesville, VA. Read first and second draft and provided feedback. K. Preftes to edit the letter for approval by the mayor with submission to the paper on Monday. The letter will be from all of the commissioners.

-K. Shaw recently connected with the Peace and Justice Center of Burlington, VT. <http://www.pjcv.org/> There are many good ideas for us to consider on their website.

-S. Flaherty reported that the Sanctuary City meeting with the City Council will be sometime in September on a Wednesday or a Thursday.

Public Comment/ Minutes

This meeting was our planning/brainstorming session. Public Comment and approval of minutes will be held in September

Planning/Brainstorming

We agreed to break our thoughts into five areas: Clergy, Schools, Media, Community, Police

Theme for the 2017/8 year: Respectful Dialogue

Clergy

- M. Willis-Goode let us know that the clergy group is finding ways to support interfaith families.
- The clergy group project to explore different faith traditions may become a film series.

Schools

- K. Shaw to meet with Superintendent Viccaro. She will discuss the Commission's desire to be connected with the schools. If no one can attend meetings on a regular basis, we considered having an annual meeting dedicated to school issues concerns. The meeting would include

the superintendent but might also include other staff. K. Shaw will also explore current practice with any student who might have a human rights violation. Where do they bring their concerns? Does it need to be improved upon?

- HRC Student sub-committee forming this September. It will be a way for students to engage with the schools through the HRC, as well as the wider community.
 - R. Robinson will discuss with the group the possibility of forming a Girls Empowerment group. Girls Inc. Girls Forward and NYS were all considered as resources.
 - A Boys Empowerment Group might be considered.

Media

- The Communications Sub-committee will continue to write press releases as needed. (A. Ibrahim, Margaret McQuillan, K. Preftes)
- Monthly articles with local news outlets on “Respectful Dialogue”
Commissioners will take turns writing articles. T. Getz to reach out to the editor of the Daily News/Richard Lodge
- Desire to increase our social media presence.
 - Facebook-add R. Robinson and A. Ibrahim to assist P. Blaiwas in posting photos, quotes, article links, press releases. B. Horne to add them as administrators.
 - Other sites we would like to see a presence: Newburyport Commons, NBPT RISE, “Nice People In Newburyport”,
 - Instagram-we would like an account
- Port Media-K. Shaw to explore services they might offer should we want to make videos.

Community Outreach

- Community Iftar during Ramadan, May 15-June 15
- “Hot Line” considered as a way for community and students to reach the HRC. K. Preftes to explore with mayor’s office
- Documentary films/films at Firehouse. They have a grant and would like to work with us. Communications sub-committee to explore.
- Peace Prize-April, possibly before April vacation
- Mini-Grants-Possibly this fall
- Forum-Respectful Dialogue
- Children’s Event
- Community Read. T. Getz to explore possible books with V. Hendrickson. Titles include: *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall and Denver Moore (it is also a movie.....) , *White Working Class* by Joan Williams, *White Privilege* by Paula Rothenberg (not sure this is the correct book). We would like the book to tie into the theme of Knowing Your Neighbor (if possible).
- “Knowing Your Neighbor” explored a film series or possibly print modeled after the Humans of NY.
 - Use world map and have flags available (or stickers) and ask individuals to post their ethnic roots.

-Interview people throughout Newburyport on a variety of topics. Capture them on camera exploring different topics: faith, ethnicity (map mentioned above), When have you been or seen an upstander? Possibly do this in public places like Market Square but also reach out to hidden communities like city hall, senior center, Kelleher Gardens etc. Perhaps get schools and other commission involved. These u-tube videos could be posted on our website, the city's website, etc.

-We also considered short educational videos on topics like faith, upstander, white privilege etc.

Police

T. Getz and S. Trieff are to meet with the Marshal and invite him or his liaison to a future meeting.

Action items were reviewed

-K. Shaw to contact Sarah Hayden at Port Media to see what services they offer.

-K. Preftes

Connect with mayor's office to see if there is a standard photo permission form.

Communication Plan to Beth Horne for final editing

Schedule a meeting with John Moynihan at the Firehouse

Explore with City Hall to see if there is a phone line we could use as a "hot line"

-S. Flaherty to research Upstander and White Privilege as a potential article for the newspaper or video.

-S. Flaherty to schedule monthly meetings at the Senior Center September June. This will occur every second Thursday at 7 P.M.

Next meeting September 14th at 7 P.M.

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Horne