

Human Rights Commission
Thursday, November 9, 2017
Newburyport Senior/Community Center
Meeting Notes

Attendance: Beth Horne, Peter Blaiwas, Kathleen Shaw, Ahmer Ibrahim, Hannah Kubat, Rose Robinson, Margot Springer, Katherine Gootkind, Matt Willis-Goode, Owen Davis, Tom Getz, Kat Preftes, Margaret McQuillan, Sheila Trieff

Guest : Alexa Looker

Call to Meeting 7:05 P.M.

Meeting notes from October 12 approved with changes

New Business:

Update from schools-Angela Bik, Assistant Superintendent was to provide an update on the English Language Learners program but did not attend the meeting

Update from City Council Sub-committee on City Services Related to Immigration Status. T. Getz and K. Preftes attended the meeting. The group agreed to include the HRC mission statement language with the change –“immigration status”(after national origin). We wondered whether they were working on a resolution or ordinance.

Update from the meeting with the Police Marshal. S. Trieff and T. Getz attended the meeting. The notes from their meeting are appended. At the January 11th meeting, we would like a representative from the police department to attend the HRC meeting to provide training on hate crimes. We also would like an update about an issue raised at our meeting about the practice of “plate capture” which allows a photo of a plate to be scanning allowing an office to run plates. If something is found amiss like an expired license, they then pull an individual over. What is the protocol in Newburyport? We also would like to know whether NPD has plans for body cameras.

Update from “Know Your Neighbor” provided by K. Preftes

A draft plan was presented to the HRC. A copy will be included with the minutes. The writing subcommittee will fine tune the document with a goal of having it ready in December.

A goal was discussed of having the film done in time for the documentary film festival.

We agreed to prepare for the next meeting-“What is our story in six words?” It can be our own story of what human rights, diversity or welcoming community means to us. K. Shaw to schedule the training with Port Media before the next meeting. S. Trieff, M. Willis-Goode, R. Robinson, K. Preftes, A. Looker agreed to take the training. At the next meeting, we will role play one of the questions.

Suggestions for inclusion in the document will be included in the edited version.

The following additional locations were suggested:

Festivals, congregations, playgrounds, library, YWCA, sports events, feeding programs, Angies, DD, Coffee shops, post office, boardwalk, James Steam Mill. Heritage House, Assisted living facilities, City Council, Chamber of Commerce, Rail trail, etc....

Update-Holocaust program-Rabbi Ben and K. Preftes met with Firehouse staff

The plan is for a 3 day event, April 12-14

Day 1) Netty Vanderpol a holocaust survivor will speak and answer questions

Day 2) Performance of “I Never Saw Another Butterfly”. Rabbi Ben will lead a discussion on the role of the humanities to fight social injustice.

Day 3) Afternoon performance of "I Never Saw Another Butterfly". We will provide a panel to discuss these issues. Possible people include, B. Horne, S. Flaherty, B. Menin, Hannah, N. Peace, Rev. M. Willis-Goode. A. Looker to reach out to B. Menin. Kat to reach out to Hannah. We also discussed asking Rabbi Ben for a recommendation.

Update on articles for the newspaper.

Articles can be opinion piece "As I see it" column or factual article.

K. Preftes- Respectful Dialogue

A. Looker- Black Lives matter

M. McQuillan and S. Trieff-Work together on an article about stereotyping aimed at parents and kids

P. Blaiwas and A. Looker (resource Katherine Blake and Marian Levy), Economic Inequality in Newburyport

R. Robinson would like to write an article.

Update on Friends for Peace the fundraiser for the HRC.

Kids As Peacemaker and Friends for Peace now have the same executive board.

There is a retreat to consider the future of the organization on Saturday 18, 9-1 P.M. we are invited,

M. Willis-Goode shared that Imagine Studio-raise funds for non-profits

Diversity and Tolerance Check-In

A. Looker-Black Lives Matter talk in Amesbury. Martin Henson spoke. He gave a general talk about the organization. He also spoke about structural racism. There is a burden carried by black people to be the ones who are expected to educate about racism.

P. Blaiwas shared the Martin Niemolle quote, "First they came for the socialists..." It was suggested for the panel discussion.

K. Preftes-prior to the meeting met with the student sub-committee. They will explore creating clubs at the high school. S. Flaherty will be leaving the HRC but will continue to work with the students.

K. Preftes also relayed an incident where women were described as "bad bakers" because they are too creative. It reaffirmed the need for "Upstander" training.

S. Trieff- requested that we have upstander training. Could we get the info about training from S. Flaherty? B. Horne to also check to see if the training offered in Melrose could be offered in Newburyport. Tip for addressing racism. "I apologize if I gave you the impression that I would agree with that sort of thing."

A. Ibrahim - Shared a lab report which had been editing for privacy. The individual described is a homosexual male in a long term committed relationship. There was an assumption by the attending physician that homosexual behavior in itself was high risk. Writing subcommittee is to write a letter to editor or article. It was suggested that a copy of the article also be sent to Anna Jacques.

M. Willis-Goode provided an update on the clergy association. Responding to the mass shootings has led to differences on the association. The clergy is going to work on modeling respectful dialogue.

Check-in

Public Comment-Introductions to Guest, Alex Looker

Meeting adjourned 9:08 P.M.

Addendum

Meeting with Marshal Murray

Tom Getz & Sheila Trieff

October 17, 2017

Tom & I met with Marshal Murray at the NPD 10/17/17. We introduced ourselves and talked a bit about the HRC and what are current plans are re: Getting to Know Your Neighbor and Respectful Dialogue. We asked the Marshal about either coming to our meetings or having an NPD representative at meetings. The Marshal acknowledged that he would like to have more of a presence there and suggested if officers could 1) have a heads up on the topic or discussion and 2) they could attend for 15-20 minutes for that discussion, it would be more likely he could send an NPD officer.

The Marshall assured us that the NPD follows their usual protocol with all non-felonious situations and does not involve ICE. Should the federal departments be making a sweep the NPD is generally alerted, as a courtesy. He mentioned being in touch with the Salem Police Chief and operating the same as they do.

We posed a question about defining hate crimes and the Marshal let us know the department follows the law on this matter and when there is some question or concern about a crime being defined this way, they consult the DA for the legal status.

When we asked him what his three main concerns were for the NPD, Marshal Murray replied that one had to do with "nuisance stuff," things that affect the quality of life for residents. Secondly, he described how he has assigned a Sargeant to each of the Ward Councilors to assist with any concern brought to their attention by a constituent. Lastly, the Marshal urges "See Something, Say Something- Make a Call!" He wants citizens to be in communication with the police whenever they observe something that makes one wonder, "should I let someone know about this?"

This was a good first meeting with the Marshal and we both felt hopeful he would assign officers to rotate through our HRC meetings.

Sheila Trieff

Newburyport Know Your Neighbor Video Documentation

Project Mission:

Learning about our neighbors, building a stronger community, celebrating the diversity that makes our community unique and fostering unity, respect, inclusion and acceptance by documenting Newburyport residents' interests, perspectives and personal histories.

Topics and Questions

Personal History

What is your story in 6 words?

What single word would describe you best?

What is the most important thing/priority in your life?

Who is a person that influenced you?

Identity and Ethnicity

What makes up your identity?

What aspects of your identity most directly define you?

How would you describe your ethnicity?

Community

What brought you to NBPT?

If you were to come up with a motto for NBPT what would you design?

What makes a person feel connected/part of a community?

What do you like or dislike about Newburyport?

Upstanding

How would you define an “upstander”?

Do you stand up to bullying or bigotry?

How do you stand up to bullying or bigotry?

Inclusion and Diversity

What does inclusion mean to you?

What does diversity mean to you?

Do you see diversity in Newburyport?

What kind of diversity do you see in Newburyport?

How do you think we can make our community more diverse?

Peace

What does Peace mean to you?

How do you define peace?

Training and Equipment

Port Media DATE???

NHS Audio-Visual Group

Partners

Clergy Group

Firehouse

Dates (TBD) and Locations

City Hall

Market Square

Abrahams Bagels

Tannery

Senior Center

Schools (at pickup when parents are present and during school hours without parents present)

Coffee Shops

City Parks

Elks Club

Rotary Club