

Human Rights Commission
September 14, 2017
Senior Community Center
Meeting called to order 7:05 P.M.

Attendance: Beth Horne, Peter Blaiwas, Shawn Flaherty, Tom Getz, Sheila Trieff, Katherine Goodkind-River Valley Charter School, Kathleen Shaw, Ahmer Ibrahim, Margaret McQuillan, Kat Preftes, Margot Springer-Whittier Rep, Owen Davis-Nock Rep

Guest: Alexa Looker

Introductions to newest member Katherine Goodkind, from River Valley Charter School.

Meeting minutes: August 16th and June 1st amended minutes approved
Year Ahead-K. Preftes reminded us of the importance of the work we do. We began with a review of upcoming work.

City Council Meeting-Ad Hoc Committee on City Services related to Immigrant Status. S. Flaherty, T. Getz and K. Preftes attended. The Police Marshal to provide the current procedures to the Council. City has had no contact with ICE. Newburyport to review and create procedures. Questions from the HRC -what happens if someone is pulled over and does not have a license? What happens if ICE wants someone.? Need clarification on whether we don't agree to hold for additional 24 hours. Prior to the next meeting send questions-to K. Preftes

Discussed creating a White Paper of what actually happens with an immigrant who has no documents when detained by NBPT police.

Noted that in a Mass Supreme Judicial Court decision that there is nothing in MA which requires a community to hold and detain anyone for a misdemeanor.

Judy Sharkey a TESOL professor will come visit later this year to discuss immigration issues.

Next Meeting of the ad hoc group is October 3rd 7 pm Tues in council chamber

Peace and Justice Center of Burlington-K. Shaw to update us.

Follow-up to August Brainstorming

Media Update-

Firehouse, John Monihan meeting to explore events for Holocaust remembrance, LGBTQ awareness and children's event.

Clergy Association, email update from Pastor M. Willis_Goode

Rev Chad Smith, a colleague, suggests a book on respectful dialogue, the book by Jason Jay, *Breaking Through Gridlock: The Power of Conversation in a Polarized World*. Possible community read? We agreed to look at book before the next meeting.

Noted the powerful events from the prior year-Fisherman's monument dedication, Iftar celebration and the combined Chanukah and Christmas Eve service; They will create a list of community events.

The "Ben and Matt" podcast which is called, *While We are Here*. Two different traditions coming together.

Schools-K. Shaw and K. Preftes will meet with the superintendent to see about getting a school rep for the HRC meetings.

Discussed community read. Several options are being considered.

Media: Writing articles-

Upstander-S. Flaherty; Income Inequality-P. Blaiwas

Other possibilities: White Privilege; respectful dialogue; history of this Human Rights Commission and what our role is currently; Communication Plan-; how to talk to your children about stereotyping; how to have effective political conversations; microaggressions; role of internet and social media in promoting/spreading stereotypes
At the next meeting will create a schedule

“Know your neighbor” respectful dialogue community interviews-

Venue--Market square

Need a release forms; script; (Humans being humans)

Bring possible questions to the next meeting- i.e. How long have you lived in NBPT; 6 Words Possible partnership with Daily News? Or Firehouse? Who might have an interest?

Student sub-committee-K. Preftes to initiate an email to set up the meeting. S. Flaherty will be the liaison.

Facebook-A. Ibrahim and R. Robinson will become administrators.

Check in-

Reviewed letter from M. Springer about a current law suit against the City of Newburyport regarding a breach of Title IX.

This led to conversation -Consider gender based violence as part of our advocacy work. MVP through Northeastern did a training about a year ago; perhaps we could look at bringing them in again. Youth risk assessment survey Newburyport opts out of the questions about sexuality. K. Shaw to speak with A. Egmont to get more details about the survey. Discussed Having Title IX training at High School and include info about it in an article.

S. Flaherty-Holding signs for Peace at Market Square on Sundays at noon

Notes shared from J. Lacroix who is undergoing cancer treatment.

M. McQuillan has an article from Southern Poverty Law Center which might be a good reprint for the paper.

P. Blaiwas to invite Chamber of Commerce to a future meeting.

To do list:

Article list.

Film idea-brainstorm; gather info.

Research books

Meeting adjourned 8:50 P.M.