

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes October 7, 2020

Attendance: Margaret Adams, Chris Kelly, Joe Borsellino, Margaret Matthews, Mayann Martin, Lianna Manos

Officer Michael Buckley, Amy Wax Lafont, Philjay Somera Solar, Aiden Healey, Diane Loud,

The meeting was convened at 6:10 PM.

Mayann Martin asked that Dr. Fox, the new Director of Equity for the Dedham Public Schools, be invited to the next Dedham HRC meeting.

Town Forum on Race

Race Forum town wide, with Colette Phillips as facilitator, is planned for the fall. Funding has been secured. The Anti-Racism Coalition shared their perspectives of how to amplify voices of color for the forum. Patricia Sanchez-Connally addressed the group asking who is the audience for the forum and what are the top objectives. She suggested that a strong message from those in government in town to make an anti-racism statement.

Joe Borsellino explained that the Select Board, HRC, and Chief of Police initiated the forum. The intent was to have a unified voice from town government. The Chief of Police did make changes to the escalation policies to become better aligned with federal standards.

The intended audience is the town wide appeal on building anti-racist community to help establish a vision moving forward.

Angela from the Youth Commission shared about the Real Talk, a group of high school students of color. The group have shared their stories.

Patricia Sanchez-Connally suggested a writing campaign to elected officials to attend the forum to hear the message.

Joe Borsellino indicated she would ask Colette Phillips to attend an upcoming HRC meeting to discuss planning the forum.

I Am Dedham

Joe Borsellino indicated he has a group of families that met with Dedham Police and are willing to participate in next taping.

Convergence Art at Motherbrook

The display is at Motherbrook Community Art Center.

Russ Poole, member of the HRC, passed away.

William Gould Memorial

The William Gould group wishing to commemorate his legacy is continuing to meet. They are working towards a statue and monument including naming a park in his honor.

Dedham Historical Society

The Dedham Historical Society made a resolution that they commit to making sure that they wanted to amplify the voices of color. Members are encouraged to share ways that DHS can incorporate diverse voices.

Month of October

Philjay Solar wishes to ask the Select Board to honor the month of October for Phillipino Month.

Dr. King Day

Tanya's Dance Center is willing to host a dance. Deanna will read a poem. Joe Borsellino emailed Mike Welch to see if the school will continue their essay contest and have students read their essays. DPS will also hopefully do some musical selections by students. Chris Kelly will reach out to Dedham TV to see if they can put together past photos into a slide show.

The Human Rights Commission adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Future meeting dates on October 28, 2020 at 6 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Adams, Clerk Human Rights Commission