

## **Wakefield Human Rights Commission**

Minutes of Meeting, February 19, 2019

Wakefield Community Access Television (conference room), 24 Hemlock Road, Wakefield, MA

### **Present:**

Pina Masciarelli-Patel

Richard Greif

Amy Rando

Jennifer Boettcher

David Watts, Jr.

Bob Vincent

Isabel Castro

Chief Richard Smith, ex officio

### **Absent:**

Maria Muti

Talat Aman

Rabbi Greg Hersh

Superintendent Doug Lyons, ex officio

Town Administrator Steve Maio, ex officio

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:30pm
- II. Sarah Richmond and Mark McDonough from the Lynnfield Democratic Committee present. Town Councilor and WHRC liaison Mehreen Butt also present.
- III. Minutes from the January meeting were accepted.
- IV. Chair's comments
  - A. Mass Cultural Council- WHRC was awarded \$750 towards our Pride Month Event. The funds were granted towards music and art for the event. Receipts will need to be submitted. More grants are available for when we grow. Group should consider a grant person in the future.
  - B. Town Budget Inclusion- Town Council approved a \$1000 budget for WHRC for the next fiscal year. Will be voted on at the 4/29 meeting or thereafter.
- V. Update
  - A. Policy and Procedure Update-Policies amended for applicants to live in Wakefield at the time of applying only. Other minor changes made regarding attendance and ethics testing every two years. All 7 voting members that were present voted in favor of the changes.
  - B. MLK Jr. Celebration wrap up- Volunteers were extremely helpful. Distribution of work was easier and there was more student involvement. U.S. Representative Seth Moulton was present. Program was well received. There was more student artwork this year. Engaging specific groups added to the attendance of approximately 200 people. DCF had a table this year at the event. Mehreen suggested building community service projects. It was suggested we have a sign up at the MLK event for a speaker to discuss racism. It was also suggested we have more tables with community organizations present.

- C. Open Seats- One seat advertised by Town Hall and 3 applications were submitted to Town Hall. WHRC was not able to submit its standard press release or advertise on social media in advance as there was no communication. Two seats are actually vacant- a 3 year term and 1 year term. Incumbent was unaware his seat was posted and was unable to submit an application. Three applications were submitted to Town Hall. Applicants will be discussed at the next meeting. The Chair will be reaching out about the standard dates the Town advertises so we can assist in notifying the community about the opportunity as we have done in the past. It was suggested we make a recommendation as to who is selected. Matter to be discussed among subcommittee. Applicants will be selected on March 25th by T.C. Galvin Peer Leaders want to volunteer.
- D. International Women's Day Celebration- scheduled for March 5th at The Savings Bank Theater. Speakers include:

Alison Mehlman- Attorney with Department of Public Health  
 Maya Alkanj Jamaledine- Melrose HRC Co-chair, Intensive Case Manager at Eliot  
 Lizbeth DeSelm- Chemist, Melrose, Transgender Advocate  
 Maureen Buzby- Coordinator for the Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition  
 Nicole Jacobs- Marathon runner

WCAT is available to film. She Major is still checking to see if they are available to perform. It was mentioned this year's national theme is #BalanceforBetter regarding a gender balanced world and suggested we use the theme for our event.

- E. ADL pairing up with Metro/North Advisory Committee and would like to pair up with WHRC for an Anti-hate event- "The State of Hate in Massachusetts and How Your Community Can Respond" on May 21st at 7pm. Commissioners present voted to join event in place of the regularly scheduled meeting. Robert Triston, the New England Executive Director of the ADL, will be speaking. Some topics will include discussion around the difference between hate instances and hate crimes and how MA stats compare to the National trend.  
 We will try to partner with Lynnfield and invite other HRC's to attend. The goal for attendance is 150 people. ADL will create the Eventbrite for tickets and set up the flyer.

## VI. New Items

- A. Library wants to partner with the Wakefield METCO program and WHRC on a 3 night event around the documentary "American Creed". Grant was obtained to show the documentary and have three facilitated discussions. They would like us to help promote the event. The dates are:  
 4/4- screening and discussion with Umass Scholar  
 4/11- panel discussion  
 4/18- discussion focusing on Wakefield and what we can do in our community
- B. Wakefield Alliance Against Violence's "White Ribbon Campaign" -Amy urged commissioners to attend WAAV's event on 3/26 at 7pm at The Savings Bank Theater. The event is intended to raise awareness around gender-based violence and will have local and State Officials leading the audience in a pledge to help be a part of the solution to ending violence.
- C. Updated Action List
  1. All- send HRC website suggestions to Pina
  2. Maria and Rabbi Greg- attend MAHRC meetings
  3. Pina- find out custodian for MLK Day Celebration
  4. Pina- email grant to Pride month subcommittee

5. All-Attend April Town Meeting 4/29 to vote on WHRC having budget with the town. (Could possibly be heard at a later date of 5/2, 5/6, 5/9)
6. David- Send MLK pics to Amy and Pina to share on website/social media
7. Pina- Ask T.A. Maio if we should
  - Present candidates/give recommendation to Town Council?
  - Can we be notified about the town posting WHRC's open seats so we can advertise through our channels as well?
  - Are terms going forward going to start April 1 as opposed to May 1?
8. Pina- Ask Doug Lyons about aligning the SC open seat timeline with the TC open seat timeline.
9. Amy- Email IWP panelists questions on 2/28
10. Pina- Request WCAT for Anti-hate events/Get back to the library about our participation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm