

## Wakefield Human Rights Commission

Minutes of Meeting, March 19, 2019

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

### Present:

Pina Masciarelli-Patel  
Richard Greif  
Maria Muti  
Jennifer Boettcher  
David Watts, Jr.  
Bob Vincent  
Amy Rando  
Talat Aman  
Rabbi Greg Hersh  
Reverend Matthew Cadwell  
Chief Richard Smith, ex officio

### Absent:

Isabel Castro  
Superintendent Doug Lyons, ex officio  
Town Administrator Steve Maio, ex officio

I. Meeting called to order at 6:33pm

II. No public participation

III. Minutes from February meeting were accepted

### IV. Chair's comments

- A. White Ribbon Pledge- Tuesday, March 26 7:00 at The Savings Bank Theatre
- B. International Day Event- April 5 at the Galvin. Jen, Talat and David will go. Pina will get HHNNH signs to Jen.
- C. Wakefield Community Health Forum- April 3 7:00 at Galvin. Rabbi Greg will go.
- D. Town Meeting- April 29 with second night planned for May 7
- E. Vigil for Peace and Solidarity- Thursday March 20 6:00 on Common

### V. Update

- A. International Women's Day Wrap Up- Had a really positive response. Several issues for next year- can we contact janitorial staff directly to tell them we're coming? Amy will look into contact info. Also, only one microphone next year to pass around, too many mike stands. If having people from surrounding towns, try to avoid having majority from from one other town, otherwise it feels like a spotlight on that town.
- B. Open Seats- Town Administrator had suggested having us send our A choice and B choice. Our preference is to send our top 3 and have Town Council choose. All three applicants to the open seat would be qualified to serve as Commissioners. Amy will forward the 3 applications to Sherie. SC seat deadline is March 26. Applications to Pina

or the WHRC email. Amy will check with Doug about email to parents. It's gone out to Facebook and Item.

- C. MAHRC Update- ongoing conversations around high school mascots, looking for input and perspective from Native American community. Richard Bayrd? Event around criminal justice and HRC's will take place in October.
- D. Beebe Library Collaboration: American Creed April 4 & 11- library looking for us to spread the word. Participants can attend one or both, movie is available on the American Creed website.
- E. ADL/WHRC Partnership May 21- Info via Eventbrite forthcoming
- F. Pride Event- June 21 at the Civic Center. Subcommittee will meet and report back.

#### VI. New Items

- A. Rev. Dr. Norman Bendroth- First Baptist Church- for now, space will be used as a public park while they decide what to build there.
- B. HRC Communications- should we have 1-2 members in charge of communication? For now it'll be Rich, we'll discuss again when new Commissioners come on.
- C. White Ribbon Pledge
- D. Civitas- David announced Civitas is organizing a talk given by Atty General Maura Healy on one of the following dates: April 11th, April 25th, May 9th, May 23rd, or June 6th. The venue will be somewhere in Melrose. Melrose HRC will have a table there, does WHRC want to have one as well?
- E. Chief Smith- Lieutenant Steve Skory will be new chief, will come to April meeting
- F. Rabbi Greg and Rev. Cadwell- how to streamline the process for vigils like the one tomorrow? Clergy association though WHRC would be best suited to coordinate but concerns were raised about violating open meeting law in the interest of planning a timely event. Do we need to have a conversation about when and how we respond to tragedies? Do we need parameters I.e. in US? Can we reach out to surrounding HRC's to see what they do? Maria will talk to other groups. Could clergy association lead?

#### VII. Action List

- A. Pina- get HHNHH signs to Jen for international Day event
- B. Rabbi Greg- attend Mental Health Forum April 3
- C. Maria- reach out to other HRC's re how they plan vigils/remembrances
- D. Amy- check into contact info for janitorial staff at high school
- E. Amy- forward applications to Sherie for open seat
- F. Amy- check with Doug Lyons about emailing parents for SC open seat

Adjourned at 8:41pm