



**Cambridge Human Rights Commission
Thursday, February 6, 2014**

Present: Commissioners Bonita Cox, Melissa Gonzalez-Brenes, Kerry Gough, Kim Nghiem, Harry Reyes, Sabrina Selk, Brendan St. Amant and Randa Shedid; and City staff Nancy Schlacter, Mariah Freark and Carmen S. Negrón.

Absent: Commissioners Chanta Bhan and Mercedes Evans.

Guest: Nina, a journalism student from Boston University (B.U.)

Documents Used:

- January 2014 minutes

1. Call to order

Commissioner Gonzalez-Brenes called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. Nina from B.U. stated that she was recording the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Everyone introduced themselves to the new Commissioners and Nina.

3. Review and approval of January minutes

Commissioner Selk motioned to approve the January minutes. Commissioner Gough seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved. (Commissioners Cox, Gonzalez-Brenes, Nghiem, Gough, Reyes, St. Amant, Selk and Shedid).

4. Executive Director's Report

E.D. Schlacter updated the Commission on pending cases, outreach, and staff activities including some presentations on Fair Housing given by her and Office Manager Negrón at some of the schools. E.D. Schlacter also announced that Barbara Chandler from Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership will be the keynote speaker at this year's Fair Housing Month event. She updated the Commissioners about upcoming activities, including an all-day seminar CHRC received HUD funds to co-sponsor with the National Center for Lesbian Rights about HUD's new Equal Access Rule.

5. January meeting follow-up

a. Outreach brainstorm

Investigator Freark created a Google Doc with some outreach documents and explained how it will be accessed by everyone, and the Commission will continue to discuss outreach in upcoming meetings. The Commission agreed to work in sub-committees when necessary. Commissioners would like to work more on outreach to educate and let people know our agency is here. In their outreach efforts they would like to focus on whether we are doing what we said we're doing, and whether that is what we should be doing.

Commissioners discussed collaborating with the GLBT Commission when they have their breakfast and parade in June.

Commissioner Gough motioned to dedicate half of next meeting to outreach. Commissioner Reyes seconded. The motion was approved unanimously (Commissioners Cox, Gonzalez-Brenes, Nghiem, Gough, Reyes, St. Amant, Selk and Shedid).

b. Chris Burke

Superintendent Burke was unable to attend this meeting. Nancy read his e-mail in which informed Commissioners that he has more general information about child trafficking.

6. New business

Commissioners Reyes, Selk and Nghiem will review applications next week for the vacant Commissioner position.

E.D. Schlacter asked Nina if she had any questions or comments and the Commission discussed some of its outreach strategy and challenges in response.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Next Commission meeting is Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.