



Cambridge Human Rights Commission
Thursday, July 9, 2015

Present: Commissioners Chanta Bhan, Harry Reyes, Kim Nghiem, Kerry Gough, Nicholas Leydon, and CHRC staff Sabrina Acloque

Absent: ED Schlacter, Commissioners Bonita Cox, Nadia Davila, Zainab Lakhani, Mercedes Evans, Melissa Gonzalez-Brenes, and Sabrina Selk

Documents Used:

- June Minutes
- Fair Housing Contest Brochure and Flyer
- Science Club for Girls Flyer

1. Call to order

Chair Bhan called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. No one was recording the meeting.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Review and Approval of June Minutes

Commissioner Reyes clarified a question regarding the June minutes, after which the Commissioners in attendance agreed to accept the minutes as is. Due to lack of quorum, no vote was taken.

4. Executive Director's Report

Attorney Investigator (AI) Acloque, in place of ED Schlacter, updated the Commission on cases and staff activities. ED Schlacter has been in touch with leaders of youth organizations to brainstorm about spreading awareness about the Commission's Fair Housing Contest and to get feedback about how to improve the Commission's outreach materials.

5. June meeting follow-up:

- **Fair Housing Bills (3) Pending in Legislature – update on draft support letters/next steps**
Commissioner Reyes contacted Katie King and Kaitlyn Passafaro in the Mayor's office at Boston City Hall regarding the status of the Fair Housing and Domestic Violence bills. Ms. Passafaro informed Commissioner Reyes that the language in the Domestic Violence bill is currently being redrafted so it is best for the Commission to wait before sending a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing its support for these bills. According to Ms. Passafaro, the Commission may, however, send a letter stating its support to the state Senate Judiciary Committee. Commissioners Reyes and Nghiem stated they would meet to draft a letter and later communicate with ED Schlacter and Commission staff regarding next steps to post the letter to the Commission's web page.
- **RiverFest on 6/13/15 – Feedback from Commissioners**
Chair Bhan stated that tabling at the RiverFest went well. The Commission's table was placed in a good location. She stated that having sign-up sheets in the future in order to collect the names of people interested in more information would enable us to follow up with them. The tattoo stickers went very fast

and more of these could be used for next year. Commissioner Leydon stated that many people took the quarter cards and he opined that the names and contact information for Commission staff could also be distributed to the public. The Commissioners who attended RiverFest stated that the outreach materials provided were sufficient and suggested that the Commission could start publishing an updated newsletter on its web page. Commissioner Gough suggested that the Commission should consider accepting inquiries and/or complaints about discrimination over email/the web and disclaim to potential complainants that any information submitted over the web may not be secure.

- **Climate Summit Tabling on 6/27/15 – Feedback from Commissioners**

The Commissioners present did not attend the event and could not comment.

- **Outreach to Daniel Weinstock at Middle School Network about Commission’s Fair Housing Event**

ED Schlacter met with Daniel Weinstock who suggested that she come to a fall meeting at the Middle School Network to present about the Commission’s Fair Housing event, date still to be determined. Mr. Weinstock also suggested a number of ideas, including having an art-making event at the Cambridge Public Library, looking at the Girls Science Club flyer in order to create a simpler handout for the students participating in the Commission’s Fair Housing contest, and reaching out to various summer programs to spread awareness about the event.

- **Outreach to Peter Sommer at Cambridge Friends School about Commission’s Fair Housing Event**

ED Schlacter contacted Peter Sommer who was away until July 13, 2015. ED Schlacter will contact him again when she returns from her HUD Training.

- **Outreach to Cambridge Youth Centers Director about Commission’s Fair Housing Event**

ED Schlacter contacted Mercedes Soto who was away in June. ED Schlacter will meet with Ms. Soto upon her return to discuss involving the Youth Centers in the Fair Housing contest.

- **Discussion Regarding Alice LoCicero’s Marathon Bombings Memorial Event Proposal**

Commissioner Nghiem stated that she would seek more clarification from Alice LoCicero regarding how she would like the Commission to support her idea to host an event commemorating the marathon bombings and those affected by it.

6. New Business

- Commissioner Reyes stated that he met with the researcher from the GLBT Commission and discussed the lack of data collection of LGBT patients in the health care field. Commissioner Reyes suggested that the Commission could possibly assist the GLBT Commission by sharing information on fair housing and LGBT rights, especially for elder LGBT individuals.

- Commissioner Gough stated that Phoenix Landing, a nightclub/pub located in Cambridge, played offensive music against LGBT individuals on a recent reggae night and would like to discuss possible ways to take action against the business or voice her discontent. She stated that this could potentially be an issue addressed by the GLBT Commission. Due to lack of quorum, no vote was taken.

- Chair Bhan stated that she will send an email to invite Commissioners to the City’s Ramadan celebration on July 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

7. Outreach Subcommittee

- **Rethinking Fair Housing event – outreach to schools and youth centers/review outreach materials for event**

The Commissioners discussed more ways to spread awareness about the Fair Housing event in the local community. Commissioner Nghiem stated that she could contact the Windsor Street Health Center to determine whether it would like to host an event and stated that she would forward the appropriate contact information from the Health Center to Commission staff. Commissioner Gough also suggested providing art materials at Danehy Park to prepare for the Fair Housing event and stated that the Commission should make a Facebook event page advertising the event. Additional ideas were proposed such as having an art-making day at Sunday schools or hosting an event to promote fair housing at the Out of the Blue art gallery on Massachusetts Avenue. Commissioners Reyes and Leydon stated that they would work together to improve the Fair Housing contest brochure given to teachers/classrooms.

8. Matters Reserved for the August Commission Meeting

- Phoenix Landing issue – how to address music played at a Cambridge establishment promoting hateful, offensive lyrics against gays?
- Continued discussion regarding whether the Commission wants to support Alice LoCicero’s idea for hosting a marathon bombing event.
- Chair Bhan stated that she would like to get churches involved in sponsoring an art-making event to increase more student participation in the Commission’s Fair Housing event.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Next Commission meeting will be Thursday, August 6, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.