



Cambridge Human Rights Commission
Thursday, February 5, 2015

Present: Commissioners Mercedes Evans, Chanta Bhan, Kim Nghiem, Nadia Davila, Melissa Gonzalez-Brenes, Kerry Gough, Nicholas Leydon, Harry Reyes, Zainab Lakhani and CHRC staff Nancy Schlacter and Sabrina Acloque

Absent: Commissioners Bonita Cox and Sabrina Selk

Guests: none

Documents Used:

- December Minutes
- CHRC Presentation Sign-up Sheet for CLC classes

1. Call to order

Vice-Chair Chair Bhan called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. No one was recording the meeting.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Schlacter updated the Commission on cases and staff activities. She passed out a list of CHRC presentation dates for CLC classes that teachers had signed up for; requesting Commissioners to volunteer to make presentations. Commissioners Davila, Gough, Leydon and Reyes signed up for various sessions.

4. December meeting follow-up:

- E.D. Schlacter stated she is working on the Fair Housing event for April, although there appears to be limited response from teachers with submissions from their students. She noted that she has reached out to the Youth Center Staff to see whether students in grades 5 – 8 can work on posters/essays during school vacation week, at the Youth Centers. E.D. Schlacter stated that Kahris McLaughlin would not be available as a speaker for the event this year, due to a prior commitment, but that she had spoken with a Commissioner at the MCAD who was close to confirming.
- E.D. Schlacter explained that the Lead Paint Video project is still “alive,” but has been delayed due to weather and limited staffing at the CHRC over January/early February. She noted that she had met twice in December with 22CityView and DPH staff about the video project.

5. Review and approval of December Minutes

Discussion about amending the December minutes. Motion to approve minutes “as is” by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Leydon. December minutes were approved by Commissioners Bhan, Evans, Davila, Gonzalez-Brenes, Gough, Lakhani, Leydon and Ngehim. Commissioner Reyes abstained, as he was not present at the December meeting.

6. New Business

- Discussion about presentations to CLC classes and how presentation materials would be transmitted from one presenter to another. E.D. Schlacter agreed to send an e-version of presentation power point,

with notes, to Commissioners. Those presenting at the CLC on 5 Western Ave will have access to the large presentation boards.

- Discussion about election of CHRC chair. Motion by Commissioner Evans to wait until current Chair Cox is present to hold election, seconded by Commissioner Gough. Unanimously approved. Discussion of role of Chair. Commissioners Evans and Gonzales-Brenes spoke about their experiences as past CHRC Chair. Agreed to table discussion of election until March mtg. Agreed that folks should nominate themselves or others they thought would be good candidates for Chair and/or Vice-Chair.
- Discussion of outreach big picture and goals. Discussion about using part of monthly CHRC meeting for outreach sub-committee efforts. Motion by Commissioner Reyes to set aside time at each CHRC mtg to discuss outreach, seconded by Commissioner Leydon. Unanimously approved. Agreed to discuss outreach plan and upcoming outreach efforts at each CHRC mtg to find out what follow-up work and supports were required and who is available to assist.
- Commissioner Gonzales-Brenes noted that it is important for Commissioners to bring their issues, concerns about human rights in Cambridge, and ideas for outreach to the Commission for consideration. Limits on outreach are “within the Ordinance’s scope.” Consensus of group as to which projects are within ambit of Ordinance. Look to what other Boards/Commissions are working on and seek collaborations.
- CHRC’s new Attorney/Investigator Sabrina Acloque was introduced to the Commissioners.

7. Agenda for March

E.D. Schlacter asked Commissioners to let her know if they have any topics they would want on the Agenda.

- Commissioner Davila suggested further discussion of the Black Lives Matter effort at CRLS for next mtg. She said she’d look into a youth speaker for the March mtg.
- Commissioner Nghiem suggested discussion of a Cambridge-based event in April commemorating the 2nd Anniversary of the Marathon bombing, perhaps in collaboration with the Peace Commission.
- Commissioner Reyes suggested collaboration with the GLBT Commission about GLBT health issues, particularly as relates to health data gathering. He suggested inviting GLBT members to attend the March CHRC mtg.
- Commissioner Bhan raised her concern about bias/confidentiality issues that might evolve through sharing sensitive health data.

Commissioner Bhan motioned to adjourn meeting at 7.50 p.m.

Next Commission meeting will be Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.