

## **Human Rights Commission Meeting**

Minutes Thursday, October 18, 2018

**Members Present:** Matthew Charity, Elizabeth Cahn, Emily Boutilier and Sid Ferreira

**Absent:** Sovann-Malis Loeung, Sophia Maldonado, Tristan Whalen

**Others Present:** Deborah Radway, Director

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm

### **Agenda**

Agenda Review/Additions: NONE

### **Old Business:**

Minutes of September 2018 meeting approved as amended, 4-0 vote

### **New Business**

1. Report on Town Committee/Community Organization liaison relationships:
  - a. NAACP Know your Voting Rights event at UCC Church October 27 p.m., featured speaker Matthew Charity. Additional NAACP events forthcoming. (Matthew)
  - b. Affordable Housing Forum, November 1, 6:45pm Crocker Farm School discussion of Potential housing development at the East Street School site by the Amherst Affordable Housing Trust. (Sid)
  - c. Town Council Inauguration- December 2, p.m. at High School, Matthew Charity, speaker
  - d. Elizabeth will be back in touch with Board of Health and will attend the 1 year in Sanctuary: Day of Solidarity with Lucio Perez event on Saturday, October 20.
  
2. Upcoming events

Elizabeth will distribute a list of heritage and history months and events from Human Rights calendar.

3. Review of Bylaw and role of Human Rights Director – This week the Personnel Board voted to split the Human Resources and Human Rights functions. The Town Manager has initiated a recruitment for a Human Resources Director and intends to work with the Commission and Council to figure out how best to support the Human Rights function. Discussion ensued on What does the Town need and want from a Human Rights Director- be an activist, assertive, a chaplain, care about Human Rights issues, have mediation, personnel management skills, know how different communities of people work, respectful. This is not a volunteer position and the Town cannot expect it to serve without due compensation- this is an equity issue itself. The Town has a financial interest in this position and role in the Community that says it cares about Human Rights.

The current Human Rights Bylaw was also reviewed and there were suggestions for future changes and prospective improvements that can provide greater clarity to the scope, jurisdiction and responsibilities of the Town, the HRC and the Director.

The Commission asked the Director ask the Town Manager to attend its next meeting to discuss funding for the Human Rights Director position on November 15, or alternatively the Commission can come to the Town Manager on a Monday or Friday early morning.

**Other Business:** Any other topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate 48 hours before the meeting: NONE

Announcements

Adjourn

Events Calendar:

October 27	Know your Voting Rights- NAACP-UCC Church p.m.
November 1	Affordable Housing Forum, 6:45pm Crocker Farm School
November	Puerto Rico month proclamation
November 18	Community Summit: Coming together to secure our future. 1-p.m. (Holyoke)
November 19	Puerto Rico Recognition and flag raising day celebration (Town hall)
December 2	Town Council Inauguration (High School) p.m.
December 10	Human Rights Day (Common) p.m.
January 19	MLK Jr Breakfast (Middle School)