



MELROSE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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November 9th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Bonnie Clapp (Chair), Randall Carter, Doug BeBrielle, Kelsey Lima, Joe Phillips, Jake Rogers, Jen Strasburger, Fatma Ulku Duru,

Members Absent: Tesfay Aradom, Linda Apple, Rev. Dr. Susanne Intriligator (Clergy Liaison), Lizbeth DeSelm (City Council Liaison), Manjula Karamcheti (City Council Liaison)

Members of Public: Jay Stapp

Call to Order: Meeting (held in Cassidy Room, Floor 2, City Hall) was called to order by Chair Bonnie Clapp at 7:00 pm with a quorum of 8 Commissioners present.

READING OF THE MINUTES

Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Approval of prior meeting minutes stayed until the next regular meeting.
- Prior minutes that will need approval at the December meeting are:
 - October (B.Clapp)
 - November (B.Clapp)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair noted that one member of the public was present. The Chair stayed a motion to open public participation as the public member only wanted to observe tonight's meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Chairperson's Administrative Report:

- Clerk Election:
 - The Chair entertained a motion to elect a commissioner to be Clerk of the Melrose Human Rights Commission until the annual election in February 2024, as D. DeBrielle was elected Vice-Chair at the October 17th, 2023 meeting and would no longer be able to serve both roles.
 - No commissioner present was interested in serving as Clerk at the meeting.
 - The Chair will entertain a motion to elect a commissioner to be Clerk of the Melrose Human Rights Commission until the annual election in February 2024 at the next regular meeting (December 14, 2023).
- Recruitment:
 - The Chair reported that she has not been able to get a hold of T. Aradom through phone, text, or email. Her last form of communication with him was on June 6, 2023 via text. T. Aradom let her know that he would be away from June 13-August 2. T. Aradom has not responded to email, texts, or phone calls since that time. J. Phillips said that he too would help to get in touch with T. Aradom

to check on him and inquire whether he would like to remain on as a commissioner.

- The Chair reported that she has not been able to have a meeting with Mayor Brodeur to share the motion of interest passed on September 21, 2023 or inquire about the potential waiving the residency requirement of F. Ulku-Duru who has moved to Winchester, as per section § A-201 Offices and standards of the City's Charter and Administrative Code (J: Eligibility for service. Any resident of Melrose, except an elected official, is eligible to be appointed to a multiple-member body. The residency requirement may be waived by the Mayor. Only where expressly authorized by the Charter, the Administrative Code, or General Law shall an officer or employee be appointed to serve on a multiple-member body. This limitation shall not apply to advisory committees, as further defined in Subsection B of this section). The Chair will attempt to schedule a meeting with Mayor Brodeur and Mayor-Elect Grigoraitis before our December 14, 2023 meeting to discuss both topics.
- The Chair shared that the commission still has 1 current vacancy and if T. Aradom and F. Ulku-Duru are no longer able to serve on the commission, that the commission will need to recruit 1-3 more commissioners in order to consist of 11 members as per our by-laws. Some recruitment efforts discussed were:
 - 'Coffee with a Commissioner' where members of the public could come and talk to current commissioner(s) to learn more about the commission and ask questions.
 - Reaching out to middle and high school youth groups and asking if there is any interest and/or ability to serve as 'HRC Youth Action Commissioners'. Proposed youth groups are as follows:
 - MVMMS GSA (Bert Whittiker)
 - MVMMS Social Justice Club (Andrea D'Ettore - adettore@melroseschools.com)
 - MHS GEM Program (Student Leader(s): Juliet Moore - juliet.moore@melroseschools.com; Faculty Advisor(s): Katia Marticorena - kmarticorena@melroseschools.com; Tim Daly - tdaly@melroseschools.com)
 - MH Do the Right Thing Club (Student Leaders: Faculty Advisor: Ms. Gardiner - kyorzinski@melroseschools.com)
 - MH Humanitarian Club (Student Leaders: Meghan Maher - meghan.maher@melroseschools.com, Meghan Radzik - meghan.radzik@melroseschools.com, Madeleine Brodeur - madeleine.brodeur@melroseschools.com; Faculty Advisor: Ms. Couture - kcouture@melroseschools.com)

Treasurer's Report:

- The Treasurer said the following amounts listed were most likely accurate and will confirm the account totals at December meeting:
- General Account Opening Balance: \$3,000
 - Unused amounts in the General Fund would revert back to the City if unspent at the close of the fiscal year.
- Donation Account Opening Balance: \$2,125.01
 - Amounts in the Donation Fund carry over to the next year.

UPDATES

Partnerships & Collaborations Report:

- DEI Task Force (JP)
 - There was no update to report subsequent to the most recent regular meeting.
- Melrose Public School's PTO DEIB Reps (BC)
 - There was no update to report subsequent to the most recent regular meeting.

Advocacy Report:

- There was no update to report subsequent to the most recent regular meeting.

Communication & Community Awareness Report:

- Hotline, HRC City of Melrose Email, and Social Media Messaging (BC)
 - There was no update to report subsequent to the most recent regular meeting.
- HRC Hub Quarterly Newsletter (BC)
 - B. Clapp did not create a Fall edition due to the motion passed at September's meeting. She hopes to create a Winter edition for release in December once a restructuring statement and timeline has been created and approved.
- Restructuring Statement (BC)
 - B. Clapp shared the beginning stages of a 'restructuring statement'. J. Rogers offered to help finalize the statement with B. Clapp. B. Clapp will set a meeting with Mayor Brodeur and Mayor-Elect Grigoriatis to share September's motion and discuss next steps before December's meeting.
- Informing Community Stakeholders of Restructuring (BC)
 - The commission agreed to discuss next steps for informing the community of our restructuring after the Mayor and Mayor-Elect have been informed.
- Garnering Community Input (BC)
 - Invite community input into the restructuring of the MHRC (Survey Workgroup):
 - What are the human rights needs of Melrose?
 - What is one way that the Melrose Human Rights Commission can help meet these need(s)
 - K. Lima and J. Phillips will take a look at the two previous city DEIB community surveys and pull out key take-aways to share at December's meeting.
 - B. Clapp will list the tools/vehicles used to disseminate MHRC information for the December meeting
- Parking Lot Items for Future Meetings:
 - How do we get our survey out to ALL members of Melrose in order to capture the true and current human rights issues in Melrose?
 - Involving the students in helping with our educational and informational social media posts/HRC Hub?

Community Action & Educational Opportunities Report:

- Alastair Moock with the Opening Doors Project approached the MHRC to gauge interest in co-sponsoring an event with Opening Doors over the MLK Day of Service weekend.

- **VOTE:** D. DeBrielle moved to approved spending of up to \$500 to Opening Doors Project to underwrite MLK Day of Service (J. Phillips seconded).
 - **Motion passed with no objections.**

Other and/or Unfinished Business:

- There was no other or unfinished business discussed.

New Business:

- There was no new business discussed.

Adjournment:

- A motion to adjourn was made by J. Rogers and seconded by R. Carter. **Motion passed with no objections.**
- Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.