



MELROSE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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March 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Bonnie Clapp (Chair), Linda Apple, Randall Carter, Jake Rogers, Kelsey Lima, Jay Stapp, Joe Philips, Fatma Ulku Duru

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

Members of Public: [none]

Call to Order: meeting was called to order by Chair Bonnie Clapp at 7:06 pm with a quorum of 8 Commissioners present.

READING OF THE MINUTES

Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Meeting minutes from February 15, 2024 were presented
- Chair Clapp requested that Commissioner Carter be Clerk for tonight's meeting

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair noted that 0 member(s) of the public were present . The Chair stayed opening of public comment.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Chairperson's Administrative Report:

- Commissioner Carter began taking Meeting Minutes for the remainder of the meeting.
- Vacancies: Commissioner Stapp appointed to 1 year term
 - Commissioner Strasburger has resigned, pending formal tender thereof
- **Recruitment Efforts:**
 - Chairpersons noted three current vacancies
 - 1 additional upcoming vacancy as of FY 25, as Commissioner Clapp is not seeking re-appointment
 - Chairperson Clapp opened discussion re: recruiting to MHRC
 - Councillor Apple had coffee with a Melrosian with potential interest
 - Councillor Stapp suggested a new model for Coffee With a Commissioner program
 - appt.-based system, rather than "office hours" at a coffee shop

- Councillor Philips suggested an email blast to other NGOs in Melrose re: recruitment
- Conversation re: sheer number of community orgs in Melrose; opportunity to consolidate/collaborate
- Chairperson Clapp suggested getting members from various orgs to serve on HRC
 - HRC could serve as a hub for human rights/community building in Melrose
 - Chairperson Clapp solicited a commissioner to volunteer to draft an email to solicit membership from Melrose orgs
 - Commissioner Stapp volunteered
- Student internship—Commissioner Rodgers spoke to Whittier at MVMMS; waiting for MHS response
 - asked a commissioner to attend GSA meeting, Mondays at 2:45
 - Commissioner Rodgers suggested timing could be better next school year
 - Commissioner Apple emphasized importance of hearing from MPS youth; more than just interns-for-credit relationship
 - Commissioner Rodgers to draft a description of HRC's solicitation for interns
- **Conflict of Interest Training:** Chairperson Clapp noted that she is not aware of any commissioners delinquent in their training; city clerk typically informs Chair of any stragglers
- **Annual Election:**
 - Chair Clapp noted that chair, vice-chair, clerk, and treasurer are currently open, to take effect for FY 25
 - Commissioner Carter volunteered to be nominee for Clerk
 - Commissioner Apple volunteered to be nominee for Treasurer
 - Suggested importance of clarifying HRC's path forward as it relates to HRC vacancies, esp. char/vice-chair
 - Further input from Mayor's Office would be valuable
 - Chairperson Clapp noted no commissioners volunteered to be nominated for chair
 - Commissioner Lima volunteered to be nominee for vice chair
 - Discussion re: roles as described in charter
 - Commissioner Apple cited importance of clarity of roles for clarity of HRC itself
 - Commissioner Carter raised possibility of discussing amendment of charter, for express purpose of improving present functionality of HRC
 - Chairperson Clapp to notify Mayor's Office of election pause due to evolving role of HRC; solicit clarity re: charter definition of roles; direction for HRC in context of Melrose's executive branch
 - Chairperson Clapp entertains motion to have Commissioner Carter serve as acting clerk
 - Commissioner Philips moves to recognize Commissioner Carter as acting clerk through end of FY 2024

- Commissioner Philips moves to recognize Commissioner Lima as acting vice-chair, and Commissioner Apple as acting treasurer, through end of FY 2024
- Commissioner Rodgers seconds; 8 ayes 0 nays, motion carries

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer resigned between Feb 2024 meeting and the instant meeting
- Commissioner Clapp is currently endeavoring to access accounts and ascertain HRC's finances

UPDATES

Potential Partnership & Collaborations Action Items:

- None to Report

Potential Advocacy Action Items:

- None to Report

Potential Communications & Community Awareness Action Items:

Restructuring Tasks:

-

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.

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

Other and/or Unfinished Business:

- Update re: Iftar task force
 - Commissioner Ulku Duru mentioned that no community members attended meeting
 - Commissioner Ulku Duru has paid for Memorial Hall reservation for Melrose Community Iftar Dinner, at her own expense
 - Commissioner Ulku Duru moves for HRC to approve up to \$800 for reimbursement for costs incurred by her in planning of the same
 - Commissioner Philips seconds
 - 8-0 motion carries

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- **Pride 2024:**
 - Commissioner Carter gave update re: Pride 2024 meeting
 - Next meeting on April 3rd
 - Ad hoc planning of Pride 2024 continues with HRC support
 - Commissioner Carter to provide update at next meeting

New Business:

- Discussion of recent hate incidents MPS; possible MHRC response
 - Further discussion at April meeting

Adjournment:

- A motion to adjourn was made by R. Carter seconded by K. Lima . **Motion passed with no objections**
- Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm