

5/15/16

COMMISSION FOR DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS (CDICR)

Minutes of Fair Housing Committee Meeting on January 11, 2016

Present: Dwain Tyndal, Wes Chin, Alex Coleman, Sandy Batchelder, Lloyd Gellineau
Guests: Virginia Bullock, Brookline Community Planning and Development
Jennifer Raitt, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

Virginia noted that HUD funding required that Brookline have a fair housing plan and this plan was included in the MetroWest Fair Housing Plan completed in 2015. She introduced Jennifer, who was the author of the MetroWest Plan, and Jennifer lead the meeting through a summary of it. The Plan was produced and adopted by 13 member communities of the MAPC.

The MetroWest Plan had four major goals: (1) understanding what fair housing involved, (2) understanding the impediments to fair housing, (3) establishing a framework for dialogue about fair housing, and (4) establishing a 5 year action plan. Fair housing complaints and testing were analyzed along with town protocols, policies and staff capacity.

The action plans included outreach and public education regarding fair housing to town staff, tenants, realtors and owners, possibly using CATV. Other goals specific to Brookline included (a) offering interpreters to persons lacking English language skills, (b) updating ADA compliance plans, and (c) offering regional training that involved continuing education credits.

Lloyd noted that as CDO he presently referred fair housing complaints to the Fair Housing Authority of Greater Boston.

The next meeting of the committee would be held on February 1, 2016, at 6:30PM in the small conference room of the Public Health Building. The agenda would be to continue discussion of the fair housing issues relevant to Brookline reflected in the MetroWest Plan and in the experience of committee members, to prioritize the committee's work on these issues, and to establish goals for the committee.

Minutes prepared by Sandy Batchelder