

Brookline Commission for Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations Meeting

May 18, 2016, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Town Hall – Room 111

Commissioners Present: Alex Coleman, Sandy Batchelder, Wesley Chin, Ernest Frey, Sean Jaynes, Brian Myles, Anthony Naro, Kelly Race, Enid Shapiro, Ginny Vaz

Liaisons and Staff Present: Michael Gropman - Police Department, Lloyd Gellineau - Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations

Commissioners Absent: Malcolm Cawthorne, Dwain Tyndal, Kea van der Ziel

Liaisons Absent: Ben Chang – School Committee, Bernard Greene – BOS,

Reporter: Kelly Race

Minutes

Meeting called to order by Alex Coleman, Chair at 6:35 p.m.

Motion to appoint Kelly Race to take the minutes for tonight's meeting. Approved by unanimous vote.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes for 4/26/16, Ernie moved to accept the minutes with two edits, Tony seconded. AC, WC, EF, BM, AN, KR, GV voted in favor. SB, SJ, and ES abstained. Minutes approved.
- We agreed that when we table a vote on the minutes we should record who moved and seconded.

New Commission Member

We formally welcomed Sean Jaynes as a new commission member. We all introduced ourselves.

Proposals from Complaint Process Working Group

Tony reminded everyone that at the last meeting we reviewed the three proposals and made minor edits.

- Tony moved to approve the "Proposal to Form a Complaint Screening Committee." Ernie seconded. AC, SB, WC, EF, SJ, BM, AN, KR, ES, GV voted in favor. Approved unanimously.

Brian expressed his frustration with the commission not following proper procedures. He will call out the Complaint Screening Committee if he sees any violations of the agreed procedures.

We then reviewed the two proposed procedures. Edits were agreed in section G of "Proposed Procedure Complaint Screening Committee for Complaints Against the Town or School Department".

- Tony moved to approve the proposed "Procedure for Complaint Screening Committee for Complaints Against the Town or School Department". Enid seconded. AC, SB, WC, EF, SJ, BM, AN, KR, ES, GV voted in favor. Approved unanimously.

It was suggested that the proposed "Procedure for Complaint Screening Committee for Other Complaints" be expanded to cover "any person, group, entity, or business".

- Tony moved to approve the proposed "Procedure for Complaint Screening Committee for Other Complaints" with the addition of "any person, group, entity, or business". Sandy seconded. AC, SB, WC, EF, SJ, BM, AN, KR, ES, GV voted in favor. Motion approved unanimously with agreed edits.

The "Procedure for Complaint Screening Committee for Other Complaints" requires the approval by the BOS. Tony recommended that we present both procedures to the BOS together since they are so similar. We agreed to provide the full package (with the three Procedures we approved this evening) but we will inform the BOS that we are seeking their approval on the "Procedure for Complaint Screening Committee for Other Complaints".

- Tony moved that Alex write and deliver the three approved documents to the Office of the BOS with a brief cover letter requesting approval of the "Procedure for Complaint Screening Committee for Other Complaints". Alex will speak with Bernard informally. Sandy seconded. AC, SB, WC, EF, SJ, BM, AN, KR, ES, GV voted in favor. Motion approved unanimously.

Michael expressed concerns about allegations being made by third parties lacking in information. The group discussed the safeguards in the procedures ensuring the committee not take action without full information.

- Kelly moved that any Commissioner who is interested in being on the Complaint Process Committee should express their interest to Lloyd before the next commission meeting. At the next meeting; the Chair will randomly draw the members' names. Tony seconded. AC, SB, WC, EF, SJ, BM, AN, KR, ES, GV voted in favor. Approved unanimously.

Tony suggested that Lloyd send the approved "Proposal to Form a Complaint Screening Committee" to all commissioners and ask them to notify him by June 1 if they are interested in volunteering for the committee.

[Enid Shapiro left the meeting at this time.]

Policy Against Discrimination, Sexual Harassment and Retaliation

- Brian moved that we submit the previously approved edits to the Policy Against Discrimination, Sexual Harassment and Retaliation as reflected in the 4/26/16 minutes to the BOS and Sandra DeBow. Tony seconded. AC, SB, WC, EF, SJ, BM, AN, KR, GV voted in favor. Approved unanimously.

If anyone has any additional edits to the Policy they should bring them to the next commission meeting.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 22 (we agreed to move by one week due to Lloyd's vacation).

CDO Update

The event to dedicate the Roland Hayes memorial marker outside his former home in Brookline will be Sunday June 12.

If anyone wants any items added to the agenda, or copies distributed at the meeting, please get them to Lloyd by the Thursday before the commission meeting.

Public Comment

Arthur Conquest had a comment after the end of the meeting time. He agreed to request time on the next meeting agenda to read a statement to the commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. by Alex Coleman, Chair.