

## **Brookline Commission for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Relations Meeting**

May 15, 2019, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Denny Room of the Public Health Building

**Commissioners present:** Sandy Batchelder, Malcolm Cawthorne, Jessica Chicco, Joan Lancourt, Robert Lepson, Kelly Race, Kea van der Ziel,

**Liaisons present:** Suzanne Federspiel (School Committee), Vishni Samaraweera (BHS), Caitlin Starr (Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Relations)

**Not present:** Michael Gropman (Police), Bernard Greene (Select Board)

Meeting called to order by Kelly at 6:33pm.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the April 24, 2019 meeting approved with amendments to description of Article 29 to indicate that it was voted unanimously.

### **Recent and Upcoming Events**

The Commissioners thanked Vishni for being a wonderful BHS liaison. Vishni is graduating and has recruited the next liaison from BHS. Emre Muftu will join our meetings by September.

The public hearing on the Civilian Complaint review that was completed by Bobbie Knable and Kelly in January 2018 is now scheduled for the Select Board meeting on June 4, 2019. A previously scheduled public hearing only allowed time for a brief presentation so this is meant to be a more significant public hearing.

There was a brief discussion of the Commission's website and it was clarified that it can be updated with events announcements and other information through Lloyd.

Sean reached out to Kelly to see if we were interested in organizing the yearly Food Truck Friday event. Proposed date is June 21 (last day of school). Lloyd's office has cases of drinks and the water station can be available. Caitlin can work on getting permits and water cart. Sean will help with food trucks. Kelly will reach out to police and fire department and to rec center for lawn games. Flyer will be prepared to go up in the schools. Can be advertised through School Committee calendar and the TAB. Alternative possible date is June 14.

June is LGBTQ pride month. On June 1, displays will go up in main library and town hall. There will also be an indigenous people's display (baskets on loan from resident). On June 2<sup>nd</sup> the community will paint the walkway across from town hall in pride flag colors from 12-3pm. There will be music, raffles and snacks. On June 19 SpeakOut is coming to hold a panel discussion on gender diversity and discrimination in the workplace from 2:30-4:30pm. On July 31<sup>st</sup>, 6-8pm, the Office and the MLK Committee will be hosting author of "Some of My Friends Are..." to discuss cross-racial friendships. Food will be provided.

There will be an evening with Gerald Alston, with Arthur Conquest interviewing him, on June 20<sup>th</sup> at Brookline Village Library at 6:30pm.

Kea provided an update on Indigenous People's Day Committee which now has 5 people. The committee will be coordinating with Wide Lens and Race Reels. Ongoing discussions with the IT department who wants to keep date as both Indigenous People's Day and Columbus Day.

### **Review of CDICR by-laws**

Bob and Joan led a discussion on the by-laws. A five-year review of the by-laws is required under 3.14.7. Joan reviewed excerpts of the by-laws including the purpose and the powers and duties of the commission. By-laws are robust and provide many opportunities for action. Commissioners had a discussion on present and possible future work as well as recruitment and the need to become more visible and active in the community.

One of the current priorities is recruitment. The role of the Select Board and the need to accompany candidates through the process was discussed. It was agreed that it would be helpful to know who has applied and outcome. Part of Raul Fernandez's platform was to make town commissions more diverse. It was noted that lots of other town commissions have low membership. Possibilities for recruitment were discussed including the pop-up town halls and signing up to be represented at the Inspo/Expo table at the farmer's market. Caitlin mentioned one possibility for involvement through the Brookline Housing Authority who is exploring simultaneous translation headsets. Another idea discussed was holding public listening sessions. Joan, Bob and Jessica expressed an interest in forming committee to review potential actions and recruiting.

### **Public Hearing on Warrant Article 26**

Susan Wolf Ditkoff presented on the article and the disconnect between reality and our ambitions as a town. The WA proposes to build on the GARE process and framework to build capacity within town, collect data and analyze opportunities to do better and to work with the department heads, staff and community to decide best actions for Brookline. Preliminary report would be due in November to ensure that departments can plan accordingly for FY21 budgets. Commissioners voted unanimously in favor of supporting WA 26. Kelly will draft the CDICR endorsement to be presented at Town Meeting.

Kea will speak at Town Meeting on Articles 17, 19, 20 & 27, and Bob will speak on Articles 26, 28 & 29.

Meeting adjourned 8:35pm.