

DANVERS INCLUSION & HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
Meeting of Thursday, February 27, 2020
Danvers Police Department | 1 Ash Street

Pursuant to Open Meeting Law M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Danvers Inclusion & Human Rights Committee was held on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Danvers Police Department Training Room.

Committee members present: Dutrochet Djoko, Chair; Bill Graham; Donna Hopkins; Sally Kearns; David Mills, Board of Selectmen Liaison; Jorge Sanchez-Salazar; Douglas Vooy, Interfaith Liaison

Staff present: Eileen Page, Human Resources; Lt. Rob Sullivan, Police Liaison

Not present: Eric Crane (School Liaison); Charles Desmond; Bob Gamer; David McKenna; Paul Polack; Cathy Sullivan-Bradley

With a quorum present, Mr. Djoko called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

Approval of Minutes

- a. December 12, 2019

Vote: Mr. Graham moved to approve the minutes with changes discussed, and Ms. Kearns seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration Debrief

An MLK Day celebration was held on Monday, January 20, 2020. A professional photographer was hired, and Lt. Sullivan and Ms. Kearns will work on posting the photos to the website. \$800 was spent on food, and about \$50 was spent on program printing.

Ms. Kearns reported that attendee feedback indicated that next year, there should be fewer speakers, and the focus should be kept on keynote speakers, art and music. Mr. Mills suggested that simply acknowledging the elected officials present should suffice. Other suggestions for next year include providing more clarity on when the buffet is open, and more posting to social media leading up to the event.

UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 3/21/2020

Ms. Kearns suggested that information be forwarded to Mr. Crane with the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and William Ford cc'd to encourage school officials to acknowledge the day. Information will also be sent regarding International Women's Day on March 8.

Police Liaison Update

Lt. Sullivan reported that he attended a day-long training in Southbridge on the establishment of Civil Rights Officers and hate crime reporting. Governor Charlie Baker has reestablished the Governor's Task Force on Hate Crimes, and has contacted police departments across the state asking them to designate a Civil Rights Officer, and commit to sending current officers to hate crime investigation training at no cost, conducted by the Massachusetts Police Training Commission. New recruits will receive training in the academy. Lt. Sullivan reported that Danvers is ahead of the curve, and has been attending such trainings since 1998. The Task Force will also aim to establish education and resources for schools, parents and students.

BOS Liaison Update

COLOMBUS DAY WEEKEND NAME CHANGE

Mr. Mills reported that the Board of Selectmen recently voted to endorse pending legislation that would change Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day. The Board would like to also work to eliminate "Columbus Day" from future Town publications.

FLAG POLICY

Mr. Mills reported that Town Manager Steve Bartha has asked the Committee to draft a flag policy. He asked that the matter be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Mills would also like to see rainbow flags flown on all Town and School buildings for the month of June in recognition of Pride Month. He stated that he would be willing to fund the entire project. The Committee established a Flag Policy Subcommittee made up of Mr. Mills, Ms. Hopkins, and Mr. Sanchez-Salazar. The Subcommittee will be staffed by Ms. Page and Lt. Sullivan.

Mr. Graham left the meeting at 9:02 PM. Mr. Mills left the meeting at 9:05 PM.

School Committee Liaison Update

Mr. Crane was not present.

Interfaith Partnership Liaison Update

Mr. Vooy's introduced himself to the Committee as the new Interfaith Partnership Liaison. Mr. Vooy's is new to Danvers and has recently become a minister at the Maple Street Congregational Church. He also serves as a chaplain at Beverly Hospital.

Speaker Series Opportunity

Not addressed.

Other Initiatives/New Business

A copy of *Antisemitism: Here and Now* by Deborah Lipstadt was sent to the Town by the Lappin Foundation. The Committee is encouraged to read the book and attend a book discussion with other communities on May 6 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at Prince House of Pizza in Saugus. Copies of the book are also available at the Peabody Institute Library.

Mr. Djoko adjourned the meeting at 9:20 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page
02.28.2020*