



Cambridge Human Rights Commission
Thursday, April 2, 2009

Present: Commissioners Marla Erlen, Charles Kavanagh, Susan Ostrander, Bill Donovan, Dan Klubock, Randa Shedid; and staff members Nancy Schlacter, Colleen Johnston, and Carmen S. Negrón.

Absent: Barbara Rabin and Mercedes Evans

Chair Marla Erlen called the meeting to order at 6:19 pm

1. Review of minutes

Review of the minutes was tabled until a quorum was reached.

2. Barbara Rabin leaving

Marla stated that Barbara Rabin would be resigning from the Commission. Commissioners planned on taking former Commissioner Monroe Engel and Barbara Rabin out to a restaurant.

3. Investigator's Report

Colleen gave a brief summary of closed cases. She said there were 3 determinations almost ready to be reviewed and signed by a Commissioner. Marla asked whether there were any issues regarding access to doctors in our current cases.

4. February & March Minutes Approval

February minutes unanimously approved. March minutes were approved with some minor corrections.

5. Evaluation of meeting with Malcolm Medley of MCAD

Commissioners discussed the prior month's meeting with Malcolm Medley. Commissioners and Nancy discussed our current situation with employment cases and the potential for the next Executive Director to take on employment cases.

6. Status of New Commissioners letter and Resignation of some of the Current Commissioners

Nancy stated that the City Manager interviewed 4 of the 5 finalists and that he expects to make a decision by Monday. Nancy noted that the City Manager's Office will send out thank you letters to the all applicants, whether selected or not. Nancy asked Charles to please send her the list of all that were interviewed, so she could confirm she had a full list.

7. Follow-up with Immigrant Organizations

Susan reported that she had talked with people from MAPS and Community Learning Center and was told that they are not currently doing anything related to civil rights with their clients, but are willing to do something for the immigrant population. Commissioners said that maybe they could host and do publicity for our Know Your Rights workshops. Susan said she is willing to call MAPS and Community Learning Center back to check and see if they are willing to co-sponsor the workshops. Commissioners asked if language would be a barrier but Randa said that the National Lawyers Guild

(NLG) has people that speak different languages that do these trainings. Randa will contact NLG and Susan will contact the organizations.

8. Outreach Efforts

A Commissioner asked about Joe's outreach efforts. Ads on Cable TV were discussed. Nancy explained that Joe has been participating in the Digital Media Fellowship.

9. CRLS Updates – Randa

Randa said that the STARS group is willing to do the Know Your Rights Workshop sometime in May. She will be sending Sharon Lozada another e-mail.

Randa and Marla met with CRLS principal. They explained that the students gave a report of issues they would like to be addressed regarding Muslim/Arab cultural awareness.

Marla reported that the students were very successful in the mobilization from the public bigotry demonstration of the Phelps family from Kansas against the GLBT group at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, and that they even raised some money for Project 10 East.

Marla informed staff that Commissioners would now go into Executive Session. Nancy handed out and explained the Executive Session rules.

Meeting adjourned around 7:40 p.m.

Next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.