



Cambridge Human Rights Commission
Thursday, March 5, 2009

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

Absent: Barbara Rabin, Susan Ostrander, and Mercedes Evans

Special Guest: Malcolm Medley, Chairman of Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD)

Chair Marla Erlie called the meeting to order at 6:21 pm

1. Review of minutes

The February minutes were tabled because we didn't have a quorum.

2. Investigator's Report

Colleen stated that there were 10 cases closed since December, 6 of which were lack of probable cause findings and 2 of which were closed administratively. There was a probable cause finding in one case and one of the parties elected to go to court. Colleen offers mediation in all cases.

3. Commissioner Vacancies Update

Commissioners talked about the interviews and stated that there were many great candidates. Charles offered to write a recommendation letter listing their top choices that he will submit to full Commission before they send it to the City Manager.

4. Acting Executive Director's Report – Nancy

Nancy reported on her conversation with Personnel Director Mike Gardner regarding Commissioners offer to mediate employee situations. Nancy stated that HUD has sent us a Human Rights Day curriculum they want us to use with the schools and that Carmen has been contacting the schools promoting the Fair Housing Poster and Essay Contest. Carmen and Joe have already been doing trainings at the schools for Fair Housing month.

5. Know Your Rights Update – Randa

Randa spoke to someone from National Lawyers Guild who is still willing to assist with the Know Your Rights Workshops.

6. Other Updates

Susan wasn't present to update on her meeting with the immigrant organizations, but Commissioners were trying to figure out how to approach these organizations. Randa got in touch with Sharon Lozada about the Know Your Rights workshops.

7. Malcolm Medley – MCAD Chairman

Chairman Medley and the Commissioners discussed the history of the CHRC's relationship with MCAD. Ideas for future partnerships were explored. Commissioners offered to do mediation at no cost.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Minutes by Carmen S. Negrón

Next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.