



SOMERVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

December 15, 2005, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland Street, Somerville
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Herby Duverné, Susan Goldstein, Christopher Hope, Nathan Lemmon, Mary Lu Mendonca, Kevin O'Malley, Yvette Verdieu

Non-members present: Kerry Venegas and Martha Costa (Police Liaison)

Old Business

I. Minutes

- Minutes from November and the Retreat meetings accepted.

II. Quorum amendments to Ordinance/By-laws –

- Update from Mary Lu -Mayor suggested to change the number of members in addition to our proposed change.
- The original said “which shall consist of twelve members”, the suggestion is to change this to “may consist of up to twelve members.”
- If have 13 then go the advisory council route. And a quorum is of 50%.
- Mary Lu will draft those changes, present them to the appropriate parties.

The Commission approved the action to Amend section 2-238(a) from the Ordinance

New Business

III. Creation of full-time ADA person

- Mary Lu presented a draft of letter to the Mayor and the Board of Alderman to support the creation of a full-time ADA compliance Officer position for the City of Somerville.

Motion to accept the letter, seconded, no opposition - passed

IV. MLK, Jr. Day Event Updates

Logistics update:

- Update from Mary Lu and committees: **(see attached grid/table of activities)** – have location and the food -does this include set up?-Susan will follow up.
- See if Multicultural commission can pick up ASL interpreters.
- Kerry follow-up with ordering award plaques.

Program content update:

- Nominations for awardees to Mary Lu by next meeting.
- Keynote speaker: Deval Patrick – Herby has contacted his office.

Suggestion by Susan-Bob Moses – the Algebra Project – offer to call over the holidays if Deval unavailable.

Third suggested keynote – Charles Olgetree from Harvard Law School (may be next year).

Fourth suggested keynote- Chris: can make a phone call to Mel King.

- Action taken: Herby will finalize, if Deval Patrick not available, then we will ask Mel King, then we will ask Robert Moses.

Program-Entertainment:

- Yvette says everything is on track for her part- Choir and Brazilian singer. Suggestion to make a bit more secular if possible. Back up entertainment would be Peacetime Players .
- Suggestion to have selections from MLK, Jr.'s speeches read by audience. Put on seat or ask people in entry way if they want to participate. Hand this piece of planning off to Early Childhood to identify MLK, Jr. quotes, put on pieces of paper, ask crowd, and handle the whole activity. Communicate the amount of time for this activity to EC.

Awards:

- Suggestions/Nominations

1. Alex Parry – Save Our Somerville group Mary Lu talked to him and said not quite ready yet for this and not directly linked to education.
2. Educator award – Alice Comack (extend an invitation to Attorney General Tom Reilly to present her award)
3. Organization award – SCALE

Other suggestions: Somerville Community Corporation, Duhamul (sp?) Foundation, Haitian Choir

- Mary Lu will notify potential awardees, ask for a short bio from them, and confirm attendance.

Publicity/Communications:

- Email Kevin for flyer sample from previous years. Invitation sample? Sending out save the date and then invitation email. Susan will look for it. Mary Lu may have it in her archives

Service Project:

- Mike has made a lot of progress, Mary Lu will follow up on other parts (refer to grid).

Miscellaneous:

- Mary Lu: Do we need to convene smaller meetings of specific committees.
- Suggestion made by Kerry to archive the documents; Mary Lu check with Alex for previous documents/samples, and about what was on the plaque, and will email Kerry with what it said.
- Martha – volunteering time to come to MLK, Jr. and will be introduced at that time as our police liaison.

V. Swearing In of Commissioners:

- Chris Hope (new) and Susan Goldstein (incumbent) commissioners sworn in by City Clerk.
- The receipt of copies of two laws 1) open meeting law and 2) state ethics law – each commissioners will sign off that they got it and return the signatory sheets to Mary Lou.

VI. Police Liaison:

- Introduction of Martha Costa, the Somerville Human Rights Commission's acting Police Liaison)
- Invited to apply to sit as a commissioner. She will let us know if she is interested.

VII. Discussion About Commissioners Making Public Statements:

- tabled again due to time concerns- will be discussed at the next SHRC meeting

VIII. Events:

- Mary Lu presented a calendar of upcoming events in the community that commissioners may possibly attend.
- Commissioners should let Mary Lu know what you would like to attend.

This year our next meeting falls after MLK Day. Suggestion made by Kevin to advance our next meeting to before MLK, Jr. Day.

January 5th from 6:30-8:30pm will be our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm.

MLK Day 2006 To-Do List

Date: Monday, January 16, 10:00 – 12:00

Theme: “Learn to Dream: Achieving Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Dream through Education”

Element	TASK	To do:	Contact person	Cost
Logistics Kerry, Susan	Location	ESCS reserved		Building fee waived
	Food	Contact Mary Jo McLarney X6080 Find out if this includes setup people	Susan	Pierantozzi will pay
	Stage/sound set-up	(depends on location) ensure that there are bleachers on stage for performers	Mary Lu	
	Custodians	Check w/Leah Arredondo	Mary Lu	\$240
	Police security	Contact police department	Kevin	
	Child care	Set this up w/Regina Bertholdo from Parent Info Center	Susan	
	Accessibility	Need interpreters, including ASL; possibilities: - CAAS provided headphones last year - Tufts provided interpreters last year - go through community agencies (Haitian Coalition, MAPS, Concilio Hispano, what about Chinese?)	Pierantozzi will check w/ “accessibility person” re ASL Aru handling spoken language interpreters	See if Aru can get mayor’s office to pay
	HRC banner and digital camera	Check on whether we need new ones	Mary Lu	
Meet at ESCS for run-through/dress rehearsal				

	Get plaques for awardees	- Awards Unlimited: 617-625-0100, ask for John, awardsunlimited@comcast.net - Needs 10 days advance notice - Alex says company has text on file	Kerry	
	Notify awardees/ confirm attendance	Alice Comack and SCALE x6900	Mary Lu	
Program – content <i>(speakers:) Ben, Herby, Susan</i>	Awards (1 individual, 1 organization)	Get nominations to Mary Lu by next HRC meeting	Mary Lu	
	Mayor	Check if he can speak/attend - done	Mary Lu	
	Keynote speaker	- Get nominations in by Nov. 26 - confirm speaker's availability - fill speaker in re theme and event format		
	Student speaker	Joe Burke of SHS Social Studies department will look into it		
	Distribution of educational materials?	ECAC will provide something – dependent on award recipients		
	audience participation	- idea re exercise about privilege - idea re having people read MLK quotes aloud		
Program – entertainment <i>Ben, Kevin, Yvette</i>	Coordinate with schools on art project/ student involvement	Elaine McMichael (K-12 coordinator for art and music) at ext. 6205 – will have teachers get stuff ready for Friday before event		
	Haitian choir	Planning to attend	Yvette - done	
	Multicultural dance group from the high school		Alice Comack looking into it	

	Brazilian singer		Ben	
	East Somerville children's choir	Trying to get in touch with Rick Saunders! 617-623-8434	Mary Lu	
	Peacetime Players from Wniter Hill School	Not coming this year	Mary Lu	
	SCAP participation	Lovelee Heller x4322 Youth Activities Club will do display re adults supporting kids; needs 5'x8' space	Mary Lu	
	Mapping project	Call Meredith Levy 617-776-5931 x242	Mary Lu	
Service project <i>Ben, Kevin, Mike</i>	Cross Street Shelter	Needs volunteers to paint bathroom; 1-4pm?	Alice recruiting kids	
	Little Sisters of the Poor	Performance at 2pm by ESCS kids – need to check w/Rick Saunders		
	College Ave. Methodist Church – soup kitchen	Needs kids to prepare a meal – Francine Sullivan contact? John Oteri (6290) may be able to find volunteers	Mike	
	Certificates for student volunteers	Can we make up something nice?	Mary Lu	

Publicity/ Communications <i>Cesar, Kevin, Nate</i>	Design invitations and flyer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - probably need to be confirmed through city press office before distribution - translation of flyers into main languages - to be sent out in the first week of January 	- Pierantozzi can get initial translations of flyers (except Haitian Creole) but they may need further editing	
	Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - first week in January - get to principals to send out through kids' backpacks - principals can also distribute notice through their weekly newsletters - Patti Marques helped last year with figuring out number of flyers needed - how to figure out number/distribution of flyers in languages other than English? 	- Pierantozzi can get info to principals for newsletters	
	Press	Somerville Journal Boston Globe Somerville News	Nate will design release	
	Local organizations/ churches	Notify by mailing flyers? Mary Lu has lists [update lists with nominee groups]		
	Local officials	Ask them to forward out to citizens through e-mail lists, etc.		
	Spread word in the deaf community	Contact info from last year: Lisa Bing, MCDHH, Intake Referral, 617-740-1600 v, 617-740-1700 tty, www.mass.gov/mcdhh		
	Contact SCAT		Nate	
	Program	Design and print		
