

Human Relations Commission
Meeting #2021-03
April 26, 2021 - 5 p.m.

A meeting of the Human Relations Commission (HRC) was held via Zoom on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 5 p.m.

IT Director Nicole Leininger noted that there were no remote attendees and turned the meeting over to Chair Hightower who called the meeting to order. In attendance were Chair Hightower, Vice-Chair Cunningham, Secretary Carpenter, Mr. Badami and Mr. Maltin. Also in attendance were Supervisor Jeffrey Campolongo and Township Manager Roman M. Pronczak. Supervisor Koch and Assistant Township Manager David Mrochko were absent.

A motion was made by Mr. Badami, duly seconded by Ms. Cunningham to approve the minutes of March 22, 2021. Chair Hightower asked if anyone had questions or comments. There were none. She then called a roll-call vote: Ms. Cunningham, aye; Ms. Carpenter, aye; Mr. Badami, aye and Chair Hightower also voted in favor. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Badami, duly seconded by Ms. Cunningham to approve the Mission Statement to read: "The Human Relations Commission is the key educational resource and mediation entity in Whitpain Township to promote the provisions of Ordinance No. 383. We help to foster equality and eradicate injustice by ensuring that every person, organization and business has the full benefits of, and equal opportunity for employment, housing and public accommodations." Chair Hightower asked if anyone had questions or comments. There were none. She then called a roll-call vote: Ms. Cunningham, aye; Ms. Carpenter, aye; Mr. Badami, aye and Chair Hightower also voted in favor. The motion carried.

A brief discussion followed regarding website subcommittee and social media updates. Ms. Cunningham discussed an email received from a resident interested in volunteering. She mentioned that the discussion included what that person could bring to the group. IT Director Nicole Leininger will add herself and Assistant Manager Dave Mrochko to the recipient list of emails to the HRC. Ms. Carpenter suggested that "volunteer opportunities" be added to the webpage, and as the training progresses later in this day, question what it is that we should ask of volunteers.

Ms. Cunningham participated in a tri-state HRC discussion where people come together and share information. Lansdale Borough, whose HRC was formed before ours, was struggling to get training and an invitation was extended to have them join our training later this evening. Additionally, in

talking with members of the Abington HRC, one of the oldest in the area, two members offered to join our meeting next month to share what they do. Rosemary Jenkins and Joanne Kleiner from the Abington HRC will attend the meeting on May 24th and share a presentation for our group to introduce their HRC and offer insights into their initiatives. It is something they do regularly for newly formed HRCs in the area.

Chair Hightower called for any public comment. There was none. She then called for closing comments. Mr. Pronczak mentioned Ms. Cunningham's email earlier in the day regarding edits to draft minutes. He noted that we are all still learning as we go and added that if anyone has comments on the draft minutes, they should send them to the Township, and we will make sure all receive a final draft before the meeting for approval. Chair Hightower thanked everyone for their participation and reminded all that the next meeting is May 24th at 5 p.m.

Upon motion by Mr. Badami, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alissa Carpenter", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Alissa Carpenter
Secretary

/v