

Human Relations Commission
Meeting #2021-07
August 23, 2021 - 5 p.m.

A meeting of the Human Relations Commission (HRC) was held via Zoom and in-person on Monday, August 23, 2021, at 5 p.m.

Chair Hightower called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. In attendance were Chair Faith Hightower, Vice-Chair Shannon Cunningham, Secretary Alissa Carpenter, Member Scott Badami and alternate member Larry Maltin. Also in attendance were Supervisor Joyce Keller, Township Manager Roman M. Pronczak, P.E., Assistant Township Manager David J. Mrochko, and IT Director Nicole Leininger. Supervisor Jeffrey Campolongo was absent. There were no members of the public in attendance.

A motion was made by Mr. Badami, duly seconded by Ms. Cunningham to approve the minutes of July 26, 2021. There were no comments or questions. Chair Hightower called for a vote and the motion carried.

Chair Hightower moved on to old business and subcommittee reports, beginning with the ordinance committee. At the last meeting, the HRC agreed to send an update to the Board of Supervisors for consideration. Chair Hightower asked for an update on that action. Mr. Pronczak responded that it was on the agenda and reviewed by the Board of Supervisors. The Board authorized the Township Solicitor to review the recommendations and report back. We are presently waiting for the analysis. Mr. Badami confirmed this, adding that he hopes the Solicitor will reach out if there are any questions.

Chair Hightower followed with the outreach committee, asking Mr. Maltin to update the HRC on the meeting with the library. Mr. Maltin said a meeting with Anne Frank, the Executive Director of the Library was mutually beneficial. There are many opportunities to partner with the library via various means of communication. Chair Hightower added that a meeting with members of the Blue Bell Rotary Club was also productive. They received a personal commitment from Steven O. to fund the HRC. A grant application on the Rotary website will be reviewed by this HRC to see what they need to put together to apply for funding. A presentation about the HRC will be developed to show at a future Rotary meeting. Mr. Badami volunteered to make the presentation when it is ready. Chair Hightower will coordinate setting up the date. Vice-Chair Cunningham asked about the library interest in implicit bias training. Mr. Maltin said we have the ability to present the information if the library will offer the platform.

Chair Hightower then discussed the document committee as related to the community festival on September 25th. She and Ms. Carpenter met earlier and after this meeting will send everyone the brochure they have been working on for review. It includes who the HRC is and what it does. We have to figure out logistics of printing, number of copies, colors, etc. Mr. Maltin said we are aware of the basic things we need for the community festival and confirmed the Township will provide a table and two chairs. The group further discussed the type of sign to use identifying the HRC, who will print the initial draft of the brochure and what else will be offered on the table. It will also be an opportunity to collect information from the public, such as a sign-up sheet, to be able to send out information. The HRC will begin gathering items for the festival the week of September 13th. Ms. Cunningham will prepare a sign-up sheet for the members' attendance during the festival.

Chair Hightower put together a quick budget of \$2,700 for print, print production, possible graphics design, and training. It is not yet ready for sharing. She did mention that about \$500 per person for training is the bulk of it. Mr. Mrochko will be sharing the cost from Good Shepard, and Ms. Cunningham did get some feedback from Lansdale about their training, though it appears their training has been booked and paid so we might not be able to join with them. Messrs. Pronczak and Mrochko briefly discussed a previous statement that the cost of training from Good Shepard was approximately \$500 for three hours. Ms. Cunningham did receive a contact at Good Shepard from the North Wales Borough HRC, and also mentioned that when they had training last year it was about \$600 for three hours for up to six people. Mr. Mrochko will reach out to Good Shepard. Chair Hightower will reach out to Cynthia Locke of the Philadelphia EEOC as suggested by Supervisor Campolongo.

Chair Hightower then brought up new business that came earlier today from Vice-Chair Cunningham, who further explained her email. An opportunity presented itself to her family to make a change, and at the October 25th HRC meeting, she will offer her resignation as she will be moving out of the Township mid-November. She wanted to give everyone a heads-up in order for others who might be interested in serving the opportunity to apply. Chair Hightower thanked her for everything she has done and continues to do in support of the HRC. Moving forward, Mr. Badami explained that the Board of Supervisors could consider moving Mr. Maltin up to regular member status and then search for an alternate member.

Chair Hightower asked if anyone else was on to offer public comment, and Mrs. Leininger responded there was no one logged on virtually. She asked for any additional comments. There were none.

Chair Hightower thanked everyone for their participation. Upon motion by Vice-Chair Cunningham, duly seconded by Mr. Badami the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 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

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