

Abington Human Relations Commission Minutes:

December 5, 2018

In Attendance: Dave Rondinelli, Rosemary Jenkins, Amy McDonald, Joanne Kleiner, John Carne, Razinn Lewis, Shelley Rosenberg

Guests: Barry Little, Kristin Chapin, Casey Weinstein

Community Ambassador Program

The three guests were invited to attend in order to gauge their interest in participating in the newly formed Community Ambassador Program. Each had been interviewed for a position on the HRC and were excellent candidates. Since only one person could be selected and they were not, the members were eager to find another way to keep them involved. And, since we were also eager to do more outreach to the community, it seemed like a natural fit.

After introductions, the group reviewed and discussed ideas about the CA Program:

- Dave mentioned that we should discuss our ideas with Commissioner Speigelman and he will guide us as to whether an idea should also be discussed with the township manager. **Joanne will call Speigelman** about this.
- We could reach out to businesses and property managers to talk about policies. There was some discussion that large businesses (i.e., supermarkets, chain stores) have their own HR departments and probably won't be interested or able to work with us.
- Chambers of Commerce might like to have us do programs for their members. We need to look at the Eastern Montco Chamber of Commerce for an opportunity.
- We should return to our program of sending introductory letters to smaller businesses and organizations to introduce ourselves and offer programs.
- We should do our bias program for the Commissioners. We will be presenting a 5 minute update to them in February, so this would be in addition to and after that (late February and March). We will personally invite each commissioner (a letter and a follow-up phone call) and offer two dates they could attend. We would also ask them to recommend community leaders from their wards, or that they otherwise know, to invite to a community dialogue program. We will ask several commissioners their opinions on this idea. (**Casey will contact Speigelman, Kristin will contact Vehey, John will contact Sanchez.**)
- While not many other HRCs are doing programming, we could explore cooperating with some of them to gauge their interest.
- **Shelley will reach out to the new school superintendent** who spoke with her about his interest in the HRC at a Montgomery County Advisory Council meeting.

The decision was made to begin with the program for the Commissioners and proceed from there, hoping they will give us names of additional people for future community dialogues or presentations about the HRC.

Other Business:

- **Shelley will contact John Washington** to ask about the grant from the Jenkintown Rotary.
- **Shelley will contact Mary Lynn Ellis of Abington Friends School** to discuss a possible program for the Upper School. The time slot they have for us is only 35 minutes so it's not totally clear what would be most interesting and beneficial for them. Our idea is to present a brief synopsis of our work (protected classes, mediation, filing a complaint) and then to have an open discussion about what they see as issues/problems and how we could help resolve them.

Our January meeting has been changed to Thursday, January 4. Dave will secure a room for us. Work that night should include: 5 min. update presentation to the commissioners, work on the AFS presentation, work on the Bias presentation to the commissioners.

New telephone number: 267-536-1009. This will be answered by Maria Wyrstra who will take a message for us.