

Human Relations Commission

September 5, 2018

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

Welcome to Razinn Lewis, new member.

Old Business:

Training: The newly formed Bethlehem HRC wants training from us, as was recommended to them by trainers from the PA HRC. Joanne has been talking with one of their representatives and they are trying to set it up.

Night Out: We participated in Abington Night Out in August. The new Life Presbyterian Church is interested in hearing about the HRC and we will be in touch with them.

Mediation Training: Several members of the HRC would like to participate in mediation training and we have applied for a donation from the Jenkintown Rotary. Joanne spoke with Cheryl Cutrona from Good Shepherd where several members previously received training. At that time, we paid only what we could afford from money we received as a donation from the Rotary. However they have changed their policy on scholarships and it would be necessary to prove need and to follow up with volunteer mediation for them. Members who are interested in training want to consider these policies.

Phone number and email: Meredith Gill set up the phone number and email and had been the person checking them. Currently, no one else has access to them. **Joanne will check with Meredith to get the access information.**

New Business:

Complaint: Meredith has indicated that she wants to file a complaint. **Joanne will check on this.**

Speaker: Ronnie Polaneczky, columnist, will speak to the HRC at the October 3 meeting on active listening. Thanks to Rosemary, her sister, for arranging this.

Presentation to Commissioners: We usually present what we have been doing to the Commissioners each year. **Joanne will speak to Jon Spiegelman to arrange this.**

Community Ambassadors: After interviewing many great people for the vacancy on the Commission, we started to discuss what we could do to keep the people we weren't able to select involved, as many had indicated they would want to do. We settled on the idea of Community Ambassadors, as a way of expanding our reach to the community and using the talents of these people. Joanne spoke to Commissioners Lori Schreiber and Jon Speigelman, both of whom like the idea. A member of the Commission should be the point person for this project and the liaison to the group. We brainstormed a number of ideas to include in a job description and **John will start to put something in writing.** The ideas include: train people to present our programs on

the HRC and on implicit bias, produce an HRC newsletter, prepare and present programs for parents of young kids, aid in our efforts for community dialogue by reaching out to groups who might like to meet with us and assisting during those meetings (This was a program we discussed last year and put on the back burner when we became busy with the police training. **Rosemary prepared a letter about this to community groups and will review it and send it to the committee members to review.**), a mural program (modeled on the Philly Mural Arts program), a “fun” program on diversity for the PAL kids (11 to 18 year olds who meet Friday and Saturday nights from 7:00 to 10:00). We will invite prospective Ambassadors to the November 7 meeting to discuss the program, present our ideas, and solicit their thoughts.

Next meetings: Oct. 3, Nov. 7.