

## **Abington Human Relations Commission**

**Minutes: November 7, 2018**

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

### **Old Business:**

**Bethlehem HRC:** Joanne has been in communication with the Chair of the newly formed Bethlehem HRC. They would like our advice in how an HRC should work and have been talking with Joanne about a phone conference call in which they would listen to our meeting. They haven't been able to organize this. Shelley suggested that we send them our power point and that, if they have any additional questions, she would speak with a representative during the day at their mutual convenience. Joanne will speak with the Chair about this offer.

**Community Ambassador Program:** We reviewed the letter that we will send to six of the people we didn't select to be Commissioners this spring that will invite them to become Community Ambassadors and explain the program to them. Rosemary will rewrite and email it to the other commissioners for final edits before sending it out this week. We will invite them to our December 5 meeting.

At the Dec. 5 meeting, we will discuss the concept of Community Ambassadors as an organic conversation, sharing our current ideas and seeking theirs as well. Our main goal is to find out, through community meetings, what's going on (what's good, what's problematic) in the community and seek to help build relationships within and between groups in our township.

We brainstormed a list of organizations with which we would like to meet for community dialogues, including: churches, synagogues, community centers, PAL, NAACP, the township commissioners, the school district, the Police Explorers, PSU, ARDC, and Abington Friends School. We would possibly advertise open meetings on the Township website, TV channel, and Facebook page. We would ask the Commissioners to advertise our community meetings in their communications.

We briefly discussed the need to describe parameters for the Ambassador program, such as: number of people who would meet with a group, reporting back to the HRC the results of any meetings, the type of meetings. We agreed that we would discuss this further after next month's meeting with the prospective Ambassadors.

We briefly looked at a letter describing the community meetings, which we will send to possible groups. Rosemary will make some changes and send it to the group for additional editing.

We also discussed the need to have a new (hopefully Township) phone number and email. Rosemary offered to work on setting this up. Razinn offered to be the initial person who will check on calls and emails received, probably weekly.

**Report to Commissioners:** The HRC usually reports its activities to the Commissioners yearly, but hasn't done so in well over a year. Joanne will contact Jon Spiegelman to ask for a date for the HRC to make a presentation.

**Abington Friends School:** Shelley has had another contact with Mary Lynn Ellis of Abington Friends School discussing having the HRC make a presentation to one or more of the students' special interest groups about the HRC. She is pursuing that.

**New Business:**

The HRC would like to use some of our money to purchase "No Place for Hate" signs and give them out at the next Abington Night Out.

Joanne mentioned that Good Shepherd Mediation is doing a program on peace circles and restorative justice. The cost is \$500.

**The next meeting is on December 5.** There was discussion about changing the January meeting from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the following week. Please check your calendars and let Joanne know if you would prefer to change that meeting.