

The stated meeting of the Public Affairs Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Spiegelman presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:53 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners SPIEGELMAN, BOWMAN, SCHREIBER, DiPLACIDO, MYERS

Township Manager MANFREDI
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER
Township Solicitor CLARKE

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, KLINE, ROTHMAN, ZAPPONE, BRODSKY, CARSWELL, GILLESPIE, THOMPSON, VAHEY

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve the minutes of the Public Affairs Committee meeting of December 5, 2018.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

PRESENTATION:

Human Relations Commission:

Ms. Joanne E. Kleiner, Esquire, Chairperson of the HRC, introduced members of the HRC who were present.

Mr. John Carne gave a presentation about the HRC that was established in 2012 by adoption of Ordinance No. 2029 by the Board of Commissioners. It is comprised of seven volunteer Abington residents appointed by the Board. Members of the HRC are nonpartisan and provide services free-of-charge in assisting those who feel they are being discriminated against related to employment, public accommodation, commercial property or housing. State law protection extends for actual or perceived membership in protected classes from race to disability, and in Abington, there are a few more protected classes pertaining to sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

HRC educates the community to understand that despite our differences we are all entitled to dignity and respect; help diffuse tensions by facilitating open dialog motivated by mutual respect and the desire to come to a mutually satisfying result and motivate and mediate disputes where necessary.

Activities 2017-2018; Department of Justice Training pertaining to community dialog; developed a program for the Abington YMCA; conducted a program at the Keswick Theater for their staff; in the process of helping Upper Dublin officials create their own HRC; participate in Abington Night Out event and continue participating in the State's HRC.

We worked with the Abington Township Police Department providing training for implicit bias and it was so well received that we were invited back during roll call to remind officers that if they see anything on the streets that the HRC can be of assistance.

In the spring of 2017, three new members were added, and in fall of 2018, one member retired and then was replaced with a new member.

Upcoming projects; update materials; development of community ambassador program; presentation to students of Abington Friends; social media presence; potential co-sponsorship opportunities and community dialogs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT – general matters relating to Public Affairs.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked for a “page” of each project.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager/Secretary

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