

**Lower Gwynedd Township
Human Relations Commission
Thursday, September 7, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

Commission Members Present:

Christine Lamar
Jimmy Chong
Meredith Roark
Stella Lee
Andrew Abramson

Commission Members Absent:

None

Supervisors Present:

Janine Martin
Danielle Duckett- via zoom

Staff:

Michelle Farzetta – absent (taking minutes via recording)

Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Approval of the minutes from August 3, 2023 – Mr. Abramson made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 3, 2023, meeting, seconded by Ms. Roarke. Motion passed 5-0.

Discussion – Whitpain HRC event on September 3-

Mr. Chong stated that they have been invited to join Whitpain Township's HRC at their community event on September 30th at Montgomery County Community College. The commission feels it would be nice if we participated in each other's events if members were available. Unfortunately, all the Lower Gwynedd HRC members have conflicts for the September 30th event. Mr. Chong is going to speak with the chair of Whitpain's HRC and inquire about possibly leaving some of our brochures out on the table.

Discussion -LGT Fall Fest on September 23

Ms. Martin stated that the event will be held from 12pm-5pm. The township will provide both a tent and a table for them. She suggested someone bring a tablecloth, though. There was a conversation regarding having a sign made up for the table. Possibly the cover of the brochure could be enlarged and displayed on the table. Ms. Lamar is going to contact Michelle and inquire. After discussing who will attend the event, everyone will be able to attend at some point during the event to cover the table.

Discussion – May 4, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Chong was contacted by a member of the BOS regarding the portion of the May 4th minutes related to the HRC's discussion about a draft letter to Wissahickon School District's Diversity and Inclusion Office regarding Dr. Ahonkhai's Coalition for Racial Equity and Social Justice lesson plan for students. The way the minutes read it sounds like the HRC is attempting to get involved with the school districts curriculum. Some members could see how the minutes read like that, others did not. Members stated they were looking to find out if this would fall under their jurisdiction, not that they were looking to interfere with the district's curriculum. They are looking to find out who handles the curriculum decisions, not to change the curriculum. Mr. Abramson reminded everyone that we would still like to find out who they could speak with and invite them to attend a future meeting. The commission decided to make an addendum to the minutes stating the following, "Nothing in the May 4th, 2023, minutes or discussion was to suggest we had any jurisdiction over the school boards curriculum." Mr. Chong made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lamar, to approve this addendum. Motion passed 5-0.

New Business – Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2023 and 2024

There will be no meeting in October, due to the conflict with the Volunteer Reception. The next HRC meeting will be in November and then every other month in 2024, starting in January. There was an inquiry made regarding members' terms, as they believe Ms. Lee had a one-year term. Ms. Duckett explained the procedure and said staff will be reaching out in December to members with expiring terms. Ms. Lamar made a motion, seconded by Ms. Roarke, to approve the November meeting and then the every other month schedule starting in the new year. Motion passed 5-0.

Township updates from Board of Supervisors Liaison- Janine Martin and Danielle Duckett

Ms. Duckett provided information regarding who to contact at the Wissahickon School District to discuss the Equity and Inclusion programs. Ms. Lamar took down the information and will reach out to them.

Ms. Martin reminded everyone about the volunteer reception on October 5th and reminded everyone to RSVP.

Ms. Martin also mentioned that we can get the brochure and complaint form on the township website. If someone could provide a short summary about the commission and send it to Michelle, she can get that, and all the information posted for the residents. She suggested that they refer to the EAC and HAC pages as a guide.

Adjournment

Ms. Lamar made a motion at 7:45pm to adjourn. Motion was approved 5-0.