

**Lower Gwynedd Township
Human Relations Commission
Thursday, August 3, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

Commission Members Present:

Jimmy Chong
Meredith Roark – via zoom
Stella Lee
Andrew Abramson

Commission Members Absent:

Christine Lamar

Supervisors Present:

Janine Martin

Staff:

Michelle Farzetta – absent (taking minutes via recording)

Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of the minutes from May 4, 2023 – Mr. Chong made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2023, meeting, seconded by Mr. Abramson. Motion passed 4-0.

Review updated drafts of complaint form and brochure with revisions from LG Solicitor made by Andrew Abramson for approval

The committee has reviewed the comments from Mr. Stein, the township solicitor, regarding the Human Relation Commission (HRC) brochure and complaint form. The final document is complete and ready to be printed. The HRC would like to have the brochures ready for the Fall Fest in September. The document will be sent to Lower Gwynedd Staff to print and post on the website. Mr. Chong made a motion to approve the documents, seconded by Mr. Abramson. Motion passed 4-0.

Discussion of letter to draft to Wissahickon School District Diversity and Inclusion Office re: Dr. Ahonkhai's Coalition for Racial Equity and Social Justice lesson plan for students- this matter was put on hold at the May 4, 2023 HRC meeting to discuss further with Commissioner Duckett.

Ms. Roarke stated that we are looking for guidance from Ms. Duckett. Ms. Duckett was not available to give any feedback. There was a discussion regarding possibly having Ms. Lamar contact the school district on behalf of the HRC and ask a representative to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss this program, in lieu of a letter.

New Business

a. Tri-state HRC update from Andrew Abramson

Mr. Abramson attends these meetings every other month. This group is comprised of HRC members in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. The group is discussing taking a position on various issues as a whole. Mr. Abramson does not agree, as only one member from each HRC typically attends. He does not feel that he can speak on behalf of the whole commission. There was discussion about Tri-state, how they work and their purpose. The commission agrees that while the group has value, and it is nice to hear what other HRC's are doing they are not established enough and have many things to work out before making a decision to stand as a whole group on various topics.

b. Discussion regarding other local HRC's wanting to collaborate an event or a group discussion based upon an email from Faith Williams of the Whitpain HRC

Mr. Chong attended an event at Bethlehem Baptist Church and met Faith Williams from the HRC in Whitpain. They discussed possibly collaborating and using resources together to help the public. Mr. Chong has agreed to be the liaison for this partnership. Everyone agreed this would be a good idea. However, they would like to get the literature together and have something to hand out when at events.

c. Discussion of Lower Gwynedd Elementary parents email regarding racially motivated issues at the school

Mr. Chong mentioned that parents from Lower Gwynedd Elementary approached him regarding racially motivated issues and bullying at the school. The biggest question was if the HRC has any jurisdiction over the schools. Mr. Abramson suggested possibly drafting a letter to the School District on behalf of the HRC or possibly inviting them to a meeting. The Commission would like to know how the school district handles situations of bullying or discrimination. They agreed to speak with Ms. Lamar and see if she would be willing to reach out to the district, as she Chair of the HRC.

d. Discussion of next HRC meeting dates for 2023

The Commission would like to meet on every other month basis for the rest of this year. Therefore, their next meeting would be on October 5th. However, the volunteer reception is that evening. They would like to tentatively move the meeting to October 4th instead. They are unsure if this is possible, so will ask Ms. Martin to confirm availability. Their last meeting of the year would be December 7th. At that October meeting they will discuss the meeting schedule for 2024.

e. Any New Business from HRC Members – There was no new business to discuss.

Township updates from Board of Supervisors Liaison- Janine Martin

Ms. Martin mentioned Fall Fest and said she would follow up with Michelle regarding getting the brochures put together.

Adjournment

Mr. Abramson made a motion at 7:46 pm to adjourn. Motion was approved 4-0.