

## **Human Relations Commission Meeting**

**Human Relations Commission Members:** Chairperson Kate Hill, Vice-Chairperson Patricia Cosby, Intake Officer Jolie Price, Dr. Susan Worth-LaManna, Dr. Wesley Moy, Dr. George Roesser

- I. **Call to Order:** Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, called the meeting to order via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Chairperson Hill, Intake Officer Price, Dr. Worth-LaManna, Dr. Roesser, Dr. Moy. Absent: Vice-Chairperson Cosby. Also present: Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, Alex Baumler, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes - January 14, 2021:**
  - Dr. Moy motioned, seconded by Mrs. Price and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes, as submitted.
- IV. **Old Business:**
  - A. MOU update:
    - Mrs. Hill discussed the MOU language and the next step to follow up with Carl Summerson, Hearing Examiner, Pennsylvania HRC.
      - Mr. Baumler confirmed that the Commission is permitted to discuss complaints amongst themselves, with the Solicitor's office and Mr. Candland. Complaints are to be confidentially managed.
      - Mr. Baumler explained a MOU, legal issues, and did not recommend for use. He requested a copy be forwarded to his office.
      - Dr. Worth-LaManna inquired about protection from lawsuits and Mr. Baumler discussed that a disclaimer can be posted to the Commission's webpage.
  - B. Training meeting review:
    - Mrs. Hill briefly recapitulated the first training session conducted by Mr. Summerson held on February 2, 2021.
  - C. Bucks County HRC meeting recap:
    - Mrs. Hill provided an overview of the meeting that was held on March 24, 2021 regarding recent events of discrimination and violence towards Asians.
- V. **New Business:**
  - A. Goals for 2021:
    - Mrs. Hill suggested developing trusted relationships with local organizations and leaders, and offer education to the community about hate crimes (what is reportable, actionable and unlawful).
    - Mrs. Hill shared Abington's HRC and Tri-State's HRC outreach ideas that include:
      - Videocasting the film "Walking While Black - Love Is The Answer", with an open discussion by the writer and director; sharing the film with other townships, teaching mediation skills, creating implicit bias training, and conducting zoom calls with community leaders.
    - Heather, a member of the Equity Alliance of Upper Moreland (EAUM), commented that

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the Alliance can inform the Commission of inequities and goals for the community. Mrs. Hill will follow up with the Alliance.

- Mrs. Price suggested obtaining instructional materials.
- Mrs. Hill stated that she will attend Tri-State's meeting on April 6, 2021 and ask for more information. She has also inquired with Abington for materials and is awaiting a response.
- Mrs. Hill summarized the Commission's goals:
  - Build awareness through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages with two monthly posts.
  - Drive engagement by creating relationships with moderators to share news, review community comments, and meet with experts for guidance.
  - Make connections with community groups and leaders, and offer educational events.
- Heather, an Alliance member, requested to share the EAUM's goals and mission with the community.
- Mrs. Hill will consider the Alliance's request and reiterated that the HRC is bound by the Ordinance and Mission Statement.
- Mrs. Price thanked Mrs. Hill for coordinating training, attending meetings, and researching educational opportunities offered by other municipalities.
- Dr. Moy stated that he is fairly new to the area and suggested creating additional educational venues for the community.
- Dr. Worth-LaManna commented on a request by the EAUM to fly the Pride Flag that was made during the March 15, 2021 Finance & Administrative Committee meeting and discussed other opportunities to demonstrate inclusiveness.
- The Commission held a lengthy discussion regarding a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners concerning the Pride Flag based on a position of human rights.
- Dr. Roesser suggested that the EAUM file documentation with the HRC such as a complaint to begin an investigation, which would be in preparation for the April 19, 2021 Finance & Administrative Committee meeting.
- Dr. Roesser stated that the HRC will be in contact with the EAUM within the next few days to obtain feedback. Mrs. Price stated that she will assist in the process.
- Mrs. Hill stated that citizens can file initial grievances by emailing Matthew Candland, Township Manager, and reiterated the types of discrimination complaints that can be filed are: housing, employment, commercial property and public accommodation, but does include representation in the community.
- **The Commission recommends the Finance & Administrative Committee consider at the April 19, 2021 meeting, the Township to fly the Pride Flag.**

**VI. Set Next Meeting Date:**

- The Commission agreed to set the next Zoom meeting for Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

**X. Adjournment:**

- Dr. Roesser motioned, seconded by Mrs. Price and the Commission voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire, Minute Taker.