

Abington Human Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2025

PRESENT: Kristin Chapin, Rosemary Jenkins, Joanne Kleiner, Shelley Rosenberg, Justin Williams and Community Ambassador Bonnie Dalzell

ABSENT: Michele Cooper

The minutes from December 2024 were approved.

Human Library

HRC Members should all be at the Abington library by 1:00PM so that we can get our assignments for the event. There are confirmed 15 human “books” for the event. Bonnie informed us that a reporter from NPR reached out to Elizabeth from the human library and interviewed her on 1/7. He would like to expand the report so he is asking her for recommendations of participants so that he can interview them for the story. He may talk to one of the Books prior to the airing of the story. We are awaiting airtime. We will have HRC brochures at the desk.

Michele’s renewal Postponed discussion until Michele is present.

Planning Meeting

Our 2025 Planning Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 21 at 6:00PM at the Township Building in the first floor conference room. We will all bring our own dinner. We will plan for 2025 and do a Year in Review for 2024. Kristin has agreed to record the presentation for the commissioners when requested (typically in late February or early March).

No Social Media Update

Astra Lumina Letter

Joanne will provide a final version to Rosemary who will put the letter on HRC letterhead and send to all commissioners.

Open Commission Position

Bonnie wishes to stay on in the capacity of Community Ambassador. We will advertise our open position on social media, send notices to the commissioners for inclusion in their newsletters and have copies of the invitation to apply ready for the event at the library on the 12th. Rosemary will locate what we used for the last opening.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Chief’s Advisory Council – Date change to Monday March 3 at 6:30PM at Training Center. Rosemary, Kristin and Joanne will attend.
- Upper Dublin’s HRC reached out over the holidays to ask us to advertise their event “LGBTQ Existence and Community Building” on January 9th. This has been shared out on our social media
- PHRC – on January 9 all advisory council members are meeting from across the state to hear about major changes happening with PHRC – Justin will attend and provide an update.

Community comment – Maurice “Tony” Davis, President of the Willow Grove NAACP was in attendance on the call. He inquired about who in Abington Township was leading events for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. In the past the Abington Commissioners organized events and had tapped the HRC a few times to lead the events. This is not the case this year. There is an event at the Abington Library and Kristin shared an event occurring in Bucks County at William Tennent High School Tony said the NAACP is meeting on MLK Day (Jan 20) at First Baptist Church in Willow Grove at 7:00PM and invited our members to attend.

Next meeting: February 5, 2025

Respectfully Submitted, Rosemary Jenkins