

Abington Human Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes – February 2025

February 5, 2025

In Attendance: Michele Cooper, Justin Williams, Kristin Chapin, Rosemary Jenkins, Shelley Rosenberg, Joanne Kleiner, Bonnie Dalzell

Guest: Commissioner John Spiegelman

CALL TO ORDER at 7:00PM

ROLL CALL

1/21/2025 Meeting Minutes were approved

PRESENTATION

Social media update

Justin reported an increase in followers on FB and on Instagram. Our posts are having an impact in terms of people being reached as our storis are picked up elsewhere such as the Local Patch. January 2025 was our best month to date.

DEI Statement

John Spiegelman gave us high praise and gratitude for our statement.

The Human Library–

Liz from the Abington Library would love to do this event again next year. The response was overwhelming and it built connections! One recommendation to utilize registration next year to anticipate turnout.

Recap from the 2025 Planning Meeting

- Potential screening of the movie *The Ride Ahead*. This might nicely align with the month identified for disability awareness.
- Brainstormed potential partnerships
- NAACP attended our December HRC meeting; consider partnering with them and promoting their events.
- Old York Road Ministerium – Joanne has a connection with them and will see where we can find opportunities for engagement.
- Continue to attend police advisory council – Rosemary will be primary liaison; others will join meetings throughout the year.
- Annual timeline – how can we get involved – can we table at events.

- Fourth of July –parade route – quiet zone for people who are sensitive to sound. Bonnie will get more details on this and how it was handled in Moorestown, NJ so that we might propose it here in our Township.

Recap Bucks Mont Collaborative

Kristin met with Kristyn DiDominick, Executive Director of the Bucks Mont Collaborative. They discussed how our two organizations can work together in partnership. Their programmatic schedule runs from July to June. The Collaborative is looking to do more community dialogues and are strongly in favor of us working together. As we continue our plan for 2025 and see opportunities for collaboration, we will reach back out to them.

Potential Purim event

Barbara Weisman, education director of Old York Road Temple Beth Am, would be thrilled to be part of a Purim event at the Abington Library. She would present a children's book on Purim and encourage all to come dressed as someone in the story. Barbara has expressed that she would prefer registration for the event so that we can anticipate the turnout. Shelley asked if we had any money in our budget for noise makers that are part of the story for the kids. Justin said he might be able to get donations for that item. It is also possible that the synagogue might have some that we can use for the event. This program will be part of the Library's regular Story Hour, with Barbara as a "guest story-teller." We are intending the program to be for pre-school and kindergarten age children. Bonnie and Barbara will discuss the program with Liz, the head librarian and hope to get her approval and cooperation.

Open Position: Interviews – currently there are 6 applications; will check with Terry Castorina to see if there is anyone else. Rosemary will reach out to Grace to see if she can help us again with zoom meetings and we will contact applicants for their availability. Also we will inquire as to recording the interviews so we all have an opportunity to hear each candidate.

Black History Month

We will continue to put profiles on our social media pages. Maybe a panel discussion if we can get it scheduled this month. Joanne will get in touch with Jeffrey Browne and ask him who we had on the CRT panel and if they could be available. Potential topic for discussion – Why are we limiting Black History Month to one month when Black History is American history?

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Spiegelman reinforced his earlier stated praise for the HRC and our efforts.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:57PM