

Abington Human Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes – April 2025

April 2, 2025

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

CALL TO ORDER at 7:00P.M.

ROLL CALL

3/5/2025 Meeting Minutes were approved

PRESENTATION

Welcome Monique Allen to the Human Relations Commission – We are thrilled to have you on board!

Social Media Update

- 1,006 followers on Facebook
- 60 followers on Instagram
- Reached over 5,400 people over the month of March
- Fewer posts on social media this month but very high engagement!
- We still have a video of the Medicaid Cuts Panel that can be posted; Justin will ask Grace if she can assist us with editing the video.

Who Pays the Price: Understanding the Human Toll of Medicaid Cuts Panel - Review

It was very well received; about 30 participants. Kristin did a fabulous job moderating! We heard many different perspectives. Kudos to Michele and Justin for pulling the panelists together! The personal stories shared were truly effective in raising awareness of what these cuts mean and how they can affect people and their families in our community.

HRC Joint Statement on Racist Video

Posted in partnership with Abington Township Board of Commissioners, Abington Police Department and the Willow Grove NAACP. The statement received mixed reactions and comments. We discussed potentially posting guidance around social media posts.

Tabling at Abington Library's Garden Festival (April 5)

Michele is sharing a table with John Spiegelman. Needs materials for the event. Rosemary and Michele to coordinate.

Budget - Follow Up

We have \$777 remaining in our funds.

We will become a member of the Bucks Mont Collaborative - \$75 for the year for membership.

Implicit Bias Training (October)

We have been asked by Chief Molloy to present Implicit Bias to the APD in their annual training.

Dates are confirmed as:

Monday, October 13

Tuesday, October 14

Wednesday, October 15

Thursday, October 16

Rosemary will combine our current PowerPoint presentation with new material to create a new draft presentation. *Kristin and Justin will send material to include as well.* We will schedule a date sometime in the summer months to meet to review and edit the slides.

Fourth of July Parade – The Quiet Zone

The Greater Glenside Patriotic Association has been contacted but they have been non-responsive to Bonnie. Our proposal is to have an area of the parade route where the viewers can be guaranteed that there will not be loud noises. Intended for those with noise sensitivity, PTSD etc. who are triggered by loud noises.

Annual Report

Grace reached out to us and requested that we submit a video of our 2024 Annual Report. We have been invited to the Board of Commissioners meeting to share what we have been doing. April 10 – meeting. Kristin will update the presentation for 2024. Michele will request that we be placed on the May agenda for the Board instead on May 8.

Township's HUD Development Program

As part of the consolidated 5 year plan, the Township must meet with stakeholders that serve the low- and moderate-income population in Abington to gather needs and priorities for the preparation of our Five Year Consolidated Plan. They have asked to interview the HRC about this effort. Michele will send the link to the survey and ask for our feedback related to the survey and a meeting with the consultant.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Shelley talked to the person who emailed from the Cheltenham HRC. Their Commissioners don't want their HRC to be a functioning commission. They have forbidden them to do anything. Shelley shared what we do as a commission and offered to speak again if they needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Several of us received emails from the township with Financial Disclosure forms. Joanne researched when we received this form about 4 years ago and consulted with the township solicitor. As we have no financial responsibilities, this form/process should not apply to us. She sent a letter to the Board of Commissioners stating why it did not apply to us as a volunteer commission. She never got a response and we never completed the forms. The same applies to this current request.

Upper Dublin HRC has reached out to us via email. We asked when their next meeting was and maybe a few of us could attend to share what we have done. Awaiting a response.

Rosemary to email Ashley to request upgrading the HRC email to an E3 plan. We need this to be able to share files and one drive.

Future project - Create some onboarding materials for the HRC for new members, community ambassadors etc.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT at 8:20 P.M.