

**Abington Human Relations Commission
Meeting Minutes – June 2025**

June 4, 2025

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

Absent: Shelley Rosenberg

CALL TO ORDER

7:01 PM

ROLL CALL

5/7/2025 Meeting Minutes were approved.

PRESENTATION

Social media update

Our Facebook and Instagram followers continue to grow. The three posts with the most views were the Pride Fest, Pride Fest Thank you and Election Guidance.

Microsoft account access

Everyone should be able to access One Drive and will add documents there as needed. This will eliminate the need for emailing drafts back and forth etc.

Township Pride Flag Raising - Review

Michele was in attendance. Commissioner Lori Schreiber opened with remarks. They had a student speaker, Max Hartman, who has been very vocal at school board meetings. Max has experienced a lot of push back at school and was very brave; speaking out against the bad actions. With his permission, Michele recorded and posted his speech on our FB page.

- Potential for programming around the topic of free speech
- Potential for programming around "How to file a report with the HRC"; either a one-sheet instruction or series of social media posts

Abington Township Free Library Pridefest – Review

Well attended. Michele and Bonnie tabled for us. John Spiegelman stopped by to offer his support of the HRC.

Upper Dublin HRC Meeting – review

The UD HRC has some newer members and asked if we would attend their May 8 meeting. Joanne and Shelley attended. We got the impression that there is not a lot of Township support for their HRC. They were asking for advice; how we got started and got active. They will have a speaker in September from Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and they asked if we would co-sponsor. We agreed that we would do so. They will be reaching out to Joanne and Shelley.

APD Open House – Review

Monique and Rosemary attended. Demonstrations of various police functions, tours of the department and presentations in memory of fallen officers.

May Board of Commissioners Meeting Presentation – Review

Michele and Kristin attended. Michele presented the video of Kristin presenting the HRC annual report and spoke of other accomplishments of our HRC.

Ardasley Park Confederate Flag Sighting – Review

At last check the flag was no longer hanging on the fence. There was an unofficial sign placed within the vicinity. John Spiegelman is working with the police to see if anything can be done to diffuse the situation. No need for HRC action at this time.

Create an Incident Database

Something to track all activities of the HRC – Rosemary to create a draft and put it out on One Drive.

Book Challenge - School District

The book The Rainbow Parade was removed from the School District library collection. It is a book about a young girl and her two moms attending her first Pride parade. Someone filed a Right to Know and it became a formal complaint which turned it into questionable educational material. It was reviewed and decided it was not appropriate for elementary school age children. Michele met with Drs. Fecher and Melchor – they will bring people together to talk about the process. Michele will be attending as rep of the HRC so that our perspective is part of the conversation. Why things like this should be handled in a specific way. The invitation included the American Library Association as a source of re-evaluating the process.

DEI Social Media campaign

Michele, Monique and Shelley to work on this.

4th of July Parade

We proposed a Quiet Zone at the parade for those with auditory challenges or responses. There was no follow-up from the Greater Glenside Patriotic Association and there is not enough time to pursue for this year. We will try again for 2026 parade.

LGBTQ Crosswalk

Kristin showed us a photo of a street in Doylestown with a very cool Progress Pride Flag painted in the crosswalk. We talked about proposing such a crosswalk for Abington Township with a potential location in Keswick Village which gets a lot of foot traffic. Perhaps we could get some young people involved. Michele may have a connection on a council within the school district. Need to start asking at the township since it is municipal property. Follow up with township manager is needed.

Housing Equality Center of Pennsylvania Workshops

Idea that came out of potential grant funding from Community Development Block Grant. Some kind of training or workshop – we could sponsor it and outreach and recruitment. Potential topics could be equal access or opportunity for public accommodations specific to queer community.

Juneteenth events

We plan to amplify existing events that are planned around Juneteenth. Bonnie, Monique and Justin are attending a celebration at Salem Baptist. We will post that information on our social media and look for additional Community events locally in Abington that we could promote or be represented at as part of our outreach on social media accounts to raise awareness.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Joanne and Rosemary will meet with Chief Pat Molloy of the APD to establish expectations for materials to be presented in October's Implicit Bias training to the APD.

Joanne reminded us that National pre-night out is Monday August 4th. We should discuss this at our July meeting to plan for tabling that night.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kitti Watts listened to the meeting. She shared that she would like to join again and is happy to see people doing good work in our community.

ADJOURNMENT

8:04 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosemary Jenkins
6/6/2025