

Abington HRC: Meeting Minutes for June 12, 2024

Present: Michele Cooper, Rosemary Jenkins, Justin Williams, Joanne Kleiner Esq., Shelley Rosenberg, Kristin Chapin, Bonnie Dalzell

The minutes from May 2024 were approved.

Social Media Report

There has been a lot of interaction on our social media this month. 891 followers on Facebook! 13 followers on Instagram! 17 posts in May dually posted on IG and FB. The number of page visits for the month of May was 2100 page visits!

Recap Lassiter Event

What do we do next? Training is available for us for mediation as well as training on how to host a community dialogue. We should have a CROC Supervisor from the PHRC who can help us to survey and identify where we might see challenges and opportunities in our township. Michele reached out to Chad to follow up and gave him info on Human Library and he wants to give us copies of books. Michele suggested that maybe we could even partner with the library on a book club with pertinent titles. General feeling was that it was a hopeful evening and that we have support.

Pride Flag Raising and Pride Fest

Both the flag-raising and the library event were well-attended. Commissioners Ben Sanchez and Lori Schreiber spoke and a veteran spoke. There were no disruptions and no one attended in protest. The library event had a great feeling of community. Quite a few people stopped by the HRC table, with many noting they had no idea we existed but were glad we did.

- Rosemary to reach out to Grace S at the Township to request that they print more of our brochures.
- Can we go to the Bux Mont Pride Fest at the Abington Arts Center – table costs \$50. Michele to reach out to Morgan Selkirk from Ben Sanchez's office about this as well as the Resource Fair at Penn State Abington. We have likely missed the deadline for the 2024 Pride Fest but could plan for next year and beyond. The Resource Fair is upcoming on October 19, 1-4 pm.

Civil Conversation Training Event

What are the tangibles that we need to help facilitate conversations in our community? Need to review the materials and resources offered by the Bucks Mont Collaborative.

NEW BUSINESS

Election Day Monitoring

ARDC mentioned incidents during the primary at different wards. Racial intimidation at one location; an episode of sexual inappropriateness at another location and Michele has heard of antisemitic behavior. We should be aware of these occurrences and expect that there will be more leading up to November. Ideas on how we can be part of keeping things civil. Create a patrol of certain wards (5) and just be a resource – the ARDC, Republican Committee and HRC to create a resource that allows people to know what to do when they see an incident. Concern that this was a primary and it wasn't controversial and yet there were incidents of people being intimidated. General election will not be a pretty picture. How can we head it off and put a stop to it if it happens? Maybe go out in teams of two wearing lanyards for HRC, communication with the Republican party and ARDC in advance of election day to offer our services. Offer dialogue training. Maybe Braver Angels could offer the bridging the divide training in October. Should not be anything that would keep us from doing this (day of and preparation for election day) and it would be a great way to display what the HRC can do for the community. Michele requested an opinion from the Solicitor about this plan and will report any response received.

Tri States Training and Poll

Randy Duques with Phila HRC on July 24 will train on Race and Breaking Bread Together. This is a Zoom training that will occur after work hours. Shelley will complete the survey for our HRC and send to us.

Human Library Update

Postpone until January 2025. Elections and holidays. We will all brainstorm about potential human books – those who have been through something or are marginalized.

Braver Angels

Set a date for Bridging the Divide October 27th. Bonnie will reach out to Madalena to confirm. We can advertise it at Night Out. Open to public but we would focus on committee members to participate in anticipation of Election Day.

JUNETEENTH

Two events on social media for Juneteenth. Social media post coming for next week!

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting July 10