

Abington Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes – July 2, 2025

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

Absent: Joanne Kleiner

CALL TO ORDER

7:04 PM

ROLL CALL

6/4/2025 Meeting Minutes were approved.

PRESENTATION

Social media update

1019 FB followers

31 IG followers

June was a less active month, but we saw activity on IG with Juneteenth and Pridefest posts.

July posts can include:

- Disability Pride month
- Impact of cuts on Medicaid
- Promotion of August 4th Abington Night Out.

Upper Dublin HRC Partnership - SPLC Event (September 11)

They will have a speaker on September 11 from Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and they asked if we would co-sponsor. We agreed that we would do so. The speaker will be Michael Lieberman, the SPLCs, Senior Policy Counsel in Washington, DC. The topic is "The Law vs Violent Bigotry: Preventing Hate Crimes while Protecting Free Speech in Today's world."

Implicit Bias Training for APD

Joanne and Rosemary met with Kathleen Pryzblowski, Accreditation Coordinator, Lt. Blei, B Platoon Commander and Deputy Chief Ed Quinn, Division Commander of Patrol. Training should be accomplished with the assistance of advocacy groups that represent the viewpoints of communities that have traditionally had adversarial relationships with law enforcement.

Rosemary will complete a draft using previous training material and any/all suggestions from members of the HRC. The training draft should be complete by mid-July and then the HRC will meet in August to edit and finalize the presentation. Training is October 13 through October 16. Our Implicit Bias presentation will be at 8AM each morning at the Police and Fire Training Center.

Police Chief's Advisory Council (follow up)

Kristin and Monique attended. A major focus of the meeting was on bias in terms of calls/incidents. There was a closer look at a specific instance of a police involved shooting.

Discussion around community perspective on this incident as well as calls about immigration and custom enforcement and APDs response to that. Chief is reaching out to adjacent communities who have seen ICE activity to understand and determine what role if any the APD plans to play in that. We discussed that we could share to our social media something that has already been done regarding immigration as well as share resources that are available.

HRC Activity Log

Excel spreadsheet on the One Drive. Anyone can add to it. Rosemary will update it after writing the monthly meeting minutes. Adding a column for attendance/impact.

DEI Social Media Campaign

Pull together facts that we can post on social media; create more awareness around DEI and its benefits to everyone. Resources are available to help us. Planning a meeting to discuss a strategy.

Open HRC Position

Shelley Rosenberg has left the HRC. Once the resignation is formalized with the Township, we can advertise the opening. Shelley was a founding member of the HRC and we are sad to see her go and grateful for all that she did to further the mission of the HRC.

Book Challenge Working Group

Michele updated us on the progress of the group to date. There have been two zoom meetings and one in-person. Next meeting is scheduled for August. There has been great dialogue coming at the policy from different perspectives. Michele is representing the HRC and looking at things to ensure that they are equitable and fair. The policy is going to go from one to 6-8 pages long. It is robust. They have done a lot of research in other school districts. Complainants will complete a very thorough form and there will be an opportunity for reconsideration for the decision. The new policy will allow people to come back and revisit the decision to remove a book.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

8:13 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosemary Jenkins