

Abington HRC: Meeting Minutes for September 4, 2024

Present: Members Michele Cooper, Rosemary Jenkins, Joanne Kleiner, Shelley Rosenberg, Cheryl Rusten, Justin Williams and Ambassador Bonnie Dalzell

The minutes from July 2024 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. *Social Media Update*

- 905 Facebook followers and 15 Instagram followers. Posted less but had more page visits...especially on our statement about hateful acts.
- Justin reported that the PA HRC is aware of and commends our social media activity.
- Briefly discussed if we should be more specific about our founding purpose when we post. We will review the ordinance and continue discussion at October meeting.

2. *Abington Night Out*

- Overall consensus - less attended than last year but we got visitors to our table and shared our mission and activities with them.

3. *TriState updates*

- 3 AHRC members attended TriState's presentation on strengthening community relations through food and found it useful. Shelley will send synopsis to all.
- Tri State continues to discuss who can provide what type of training...a pending possible topic is an overview of mediation approaches.
- Rosemary will reach out to the PA HRC to see what types of training are available through them and will report back.

4. *LGBTQ+ Resource Fair*

- Application received to have a table at the Oct. 19 event. Michele will submit. Rosemary will organize material and get it to Cheryl, who will staff the table possibly with Shelley TBD.

5. *Braver Angels October Event*

- 5 signups thus far but we really haven't advertised much yet. AHRC members -don't forget to sign up too.
- Invitations sent to both Dem and Rep committees in Abington. Some commissioners will share the invite in their newsletters.
- Rydal Park residents may be interested.... Michele will reach out to them with a flyer.
- PA HRC will publicize the event as will the Southeastern PA Alliance of Braver Angels, if we are willing to open it up to the larger public, which we are.
- Cheryl will send out notices to the PATCH, Glenside News and other outlets as identified.
- Joanne noted the importance of having a diverse participant group. Other groups we could specifically reach out to include local VFWs and Rotary groups. (If Michele could do a new flyer with the URL Cheryl will distribute to VFWs)

6. *Human Library Event*

- January event officially approved by governing organization. Toolbox with specific information is being sent.

- Bonnie will keep a master list of possible invitees. Send her names, contact info if known, and brief description of invitee. If no specific person in mind, you can also send her thoughts about a category of human book to be represented. Goal is 18-20 "books".
7. Asian American burglaries
 - Fox 29 interviewed Michele and a member of the Abington Police Department, but we don't know when/if a piece will run.
 8. 100 York Road Apartments
 - Waiting to hear from Commissioner Browne if there is a way we can assist with issues identified there.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Regarding a planned neo-Nazi march in Harrisburg, the PA HRC has asked for signatures from both individuals and organizations supporting a "no Hate in PA" stance. The AHRC as well as some individual members agreed to sign and share petition with others.
2. It was noted that a Supreme Court decision regarding antisemitic signage between neighbors in Abington was recently made. Issue had been in court for 10 years. Surprise expressed that the HRC had not been aware of it but it was noted that the HRC had just been formed around that time and was not well known yet.
3. AHRC members are invited to the Township's Volunteer Recognition Picnic on Sept. 25th.

Public Comment:

1. Ms. Kizzie Wooten, resident of 100 York Road, described issues ongoing at that location and asked what kind of help the AHRC could provide. We noted that we were working with relevant Commissioners to see how we could assist.

Next meeting: October 9, 2004 (due to religious holiday on October 2)

Respectfully submitted: Cheryl Rusten, Secretary