

Abington HRC: Minutes of Meeting Dec. 7, 2022

Present: Shelley, Joanne, Cheryl, Michele, Jeffrey

Minutes of November meeting were approved.

New Business: Joanne reviewed the arguments in a new Supreme Court case that pits public accommodations against “offensive” speech. This could have a direct effect on same sex couples and the protection we provide via our ordinance. There is nothing to do at this time other than be aware of what is going on.

Old Business: We reviewed a new idea for the MLK Day project that we will be running for the Township. We agreed upon a food and book drive that would take place on MLK Day, alongside a program that will explain why we celebrate Dr. King. This will be the Township’s 38th Annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Remembrance Celebration.

There were several suggestions about where to give book donations for kids and young adults. They include: shelters, boys and girls clubs, after schools program, and the Philadelphia School District. There was also a discussion about whether to make a special request for “banned” books. There has been no final decision on that. Cheryl will look into two food pantries that might be interested in the donation of canned good. We also discussed various places to have the event, which included: Salem Baptist Church, the Ardsley Community Center, and the Crestmont Club House. Joanne will discuss the location and the other ideas described here with Rich Manfredi.

We also plan to have a program that will include a choir (Jeffrey will look into inviting a gospel choir), an award to someone who exemplifies the qualities, values, and mission of Dr. King (Michelle will ask Senator Haywood and Joanne will ask Rabbi Lieb for ideas), and a speaker (maybe Senator Haywood) who will talk about Dr. King. We discussed beginning with the program from 10:00 am to 11:00 and collecting and packing the donations from 11:00 until 2:00. We will set up a SignUp Genius for volunteers and hope to get a lot of residents volunteering. We’re also going to offer the high school kids an opportunity to earn credits for their participation in setting or cleaning up or packing donations.

Those who have assignments should report back by email to the whole group as soon as possible. Keep an eye out for suggestions, solutions, and changes.

Next meeting: Jan. 4, 2023