



Haverford
Township est. 1682

PUBLIC NOTICE
HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Human Relations Commission will hold a virtual public meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

The meeting will be hosted through Zoom. If you would like to view the meeting or submit a question to the Human Relations Commission, please email Kathy Dawson, acting Chairperson, at hrc.havtwp@gmail.com. For those who want to attend virtually a zoom link will be emailed to them.

HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

AGENDA--FEBRUARY 17, 2021 MEETING

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - New Members and Guest Speaker. Introductions of new members Jen Kegerise (Kegs) and Christine Tassoni
2. Public Comment - none
3. Guest Speaker: Dan Siegel, Haverford Township 4th Ward Commissioner
The Township Commissioners have created an HRC committee so that there is a more formal connection with the HRC. He shared his own experience (joining the board of the ADL) with bias and harassment in the Township and his view for supporting outreach and education efforts within the Township. He isn't sure what the committee's specific charge is.
4. Approval of September 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes -- approved. Motion from Kathy and seconded by Jen. Approved by group.
5. Election of Office Holders (Chair and Vice Chair). Kathy has been in acting chair role since Dec. 31 and would like to pass it off to someone else. Asking for nominations for chair. Chair and Vice Chair handle the complaints; do agenda and topics, liaising with Dave. Vice Chair steps up as needed. Christine Tassoni was nominated as Chair for 2021 calendar year by Kathy, seconded by Jen, she was elected unanimously. Laura Cavender nominated as Vice Chair for 2021 calendar year, seconded by Jen Kegerise. Elected unanimously.
6. Reports
 - a. Complaints 001, 002, and 003--update
No updates per Kathy on these complaints.
 - b. Education and Outreach Committee
 - Quarterly Meetings with Township Manager - Jason and Kathy are part of these and the invitation is open to other committee members.
 - Haverford Township Diversity, Equity and Inclusive initiatives--
Walking While Black movie

The “Walking while Black: L.O.V.E. Is The Answer” movie was screened at the Township Building in mid February, where there were various Township officials, as well as members of the police department and the community in attendance. The goal is to have smaller groups of people watch the movie over the next 6 months. Interested in having someone from the HRC attend each screening. More effective to do it face to face since it is much more powerful that way.

Jen asked whether its being driven by Dave Burman or the HRC. Dave - he wants to promote it - he is a strong proponent of diversity and inclusion.

Khalilah - we were also talking about HRC engagement with the police. If we wanted to revisit something we would want to do something totally different. We talked about leading an effort

Kathy - let them know you have seen the movie, try and do something independent. Important that we can help promote this proactive action - they could be more active, they might have other ways they want to be active. It doesn't have to be either/or and we can approach separately - communicate and educate folks.

Khalilah - there is overlap with the movie so we can't bring the police and community together. We can't use Walking While Black -

Jen - what Abington is doing may be instructive to whatever we want to do - in general. We should view movie - probably need to make the overture now to the police- could we have a quick update on what you're doing, we had planned on doing the movie last year

- HRC Communications
 - HRC Facebook site - Kegs will do. Kathy: contact at Township is Kristina Mann to see if there are social media policies in place. Kegs asked about log-in for facebook.
 - Township Newsletter - Laura will do- 3x yearly

c. Legislative Committee

- Proposed HRC Regulations and Procedures - Dan Siegel offered to review; proposals with Jim Byrne from Kathy and Jason - haven't heard back. Policy No. 1 – Neutrality of Commission Members - we've talked about this policy but we've never voted on it. This came about as a result of the two complaints we had last year, there was a concern about members of the HRC being involved with the complaints even though we weren't. Appearance of conflict more than actual conflict. Look at policy one more time and decide at the next meeting. Deferring policy - look at policy and decide on your opinions/comments prior to May meeting.
- Haverford Township Fair Housing Ordinance. Thinking about inviting someone to educate us on the new responsibilities for the HRC under the ordinance.

d. Tri-State HRC - Kathy attends meetings - has been a small subcommittee of folks looking at the implicit bias training they did in 2018 and now it is much more interactive. done online on zoom or in a face to face format. hopefully can make available to all of the HRCs in the next month or so. Module on implicit bias training - 60-90 minutes - part two will look at microaggressions.

Want to do a speaker series - who would be good speakers, we could let people know what dates are available for these speakers. Guest speakers who can continue to educate us on what we do on the HRC

e. Representation from HHS/HMS - they haven't been to meetings in so long and Kathy doesn't even have their contact information any longer. LM is trying to start a youth commission.

Khalilah asks what their role was - Kathy wasn't clear at all about duties and responsibilities. Jen - roles and responsibilities for students - educational programs, poetry contest one year in the middle school and creative expression contest in HS. Interest at that point in having a voice of students at the meetings of the HRC. The principal designated a young man when he was a junior in HS and at the same time there were middle school students created something called Young Minds Changing Lives - principal wanted to know if there was a way to connect with the HRC - a connection to the community. One of the leaders of that group, Charlie, would come to the public meetings. They would also let us know what was going on in the schools.

If we rebuild it, it will take intentional action - to connect with younger people in the community? We have never reached out directly to the students, such as the kids that put together the BLM . Jen added that there is a lot of potential with the young people - but do we want to wait to see what life looks like in the future rather than right now. Tabled for continued discussion as the year moves forward and life changes post-COVID vaccine.

7. 2021 Budget and potential 2021 activities

- Partnerships with HT School District, Police, HPED, community meetings. We present the HPED with the business case for diversity - that is our role as HRC. When you don't have that you are not as profitable.
- Maybe use FB Live or IG Live - Kegs
- We have a \$1500 for 2021 budget

8. New Business

- Sept 15, 2021 meeting date—needs to be changed due to holiday; Yom Kippur. Change to 8th, 22nd and 29th. Moved to Sept. 22.
- Questions about our expanded jurisdiction as a body - it wasn't clear to Jen or Kathy from Dan in terms of who would advise us on our new role regarding fair housing issues. There is no clarity on how it would work. Kathy suggests a rep from Dave, zoning, planning so that we have some idea of what the law is all about - to answer questions we might have.
- Kegs asked whether there was reason to meet more often in order to get more done; Jen Leith agreed that meeting more regularly helped get more done. We have to comply with sunshine laws, and provide advanced notice prior to meeting. Kegs is going to follow up regarding more information on this.

9. Adjourned at 8:48pm.

** The next regularly scheduled meeting is May 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. **