

AMBLER BOROUGH HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

The second 2023 quarterly meeting of the HRC was held Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 6:30pm at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, PA, 19002. This was a regularly scheduled, routine, quarterly meeting.

Denise Valerio, HRC chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call – Present: Ms. Denise Valerio, Ms. Marilyn Frasier, Ms. Katie Kirszenblat, Ms. Trelana Adams, Ms. Mary Wingfield

First order of business: review and approval of last meeting's minutes - Ms. Kirszenblat motioned to approve; Ms. Wingfield seconded, motion carried.

The following was reviewed:

1. HRC Earth Fest participation: Event is scheduled for April 29, 2023 (rain date April 30, 2023) - sponsored by Ambler EAC. Set-up starts at 9am, event 10am-2pm. Volunteer schedule is as follows:

9a-11am Ms. Kirszenblat and Ms. Valerio

11am-4pm Ms. Frazier

2pm-4pm Ms. Wingfield

(Ms. Valerio will be available throughout the entire event)

Ms. Adams completed making the t-shirts this commission designed and brought them to the meeting. Ms. Adams has a canopy and tablecloth that will be made available for use at the EarthFest event; Ms. Frazier has a back-up if needed; Ms. Frazier will bring candy for distribution at the event; Ms. Valerio has a table to utilize. Ms. Kirszenblat will continue to distribute commission fliers to local businesses to spread the word on the commissions presence and purpose.

2. Past Engagement Events:

- Tri-State Human Relations Coalition's meeting 1/11/23: 11 different groups participated, Ms. Frazier represented the Ambler HRC. The group discussed: anti-semitism, local book bans, MLK day celebrations, Whitpain's public resolution against anti-semitism.
- The 1st Annual HRC Summit event on 1/19/23: a good mix of newer and established groups participated in this event, Ms. Frazier and Ms. Valerio represented the Ambler HRC. Carmina Taylor presented on Cheltenham and North Penn schools pushing for acceptance of diversity in the student body and worked with Penn on surveys and data analysis. There was an emphasis on teaching children how to reach out to adults and their communities.

- Presentation to religious clergy leadership group on 2/24/23: Ms. Frazier developed a presentation and spoke with the group on behalf of the commission. There were 11 members present and the group was receptive.
- Tri-State Human Relations Coalition's meeting 3/8/23: 14 people participated, Ms. Valerio represented the Ambler HRC. The coalition is looking to have more of a presence and will be working on developing a statement to share with the local communities as well as having the state more involved in the coalition activities. Also discussed, local projects like mailers, and budgets (grants from local Rotary clubs and the boroughs or townships). The next meeting will be 5/9/23 at 5:30pm via Zoom.

3. This commission discussed the member vacancy and strategies to identify potential future member(s): there were two potential members who were interested in learning more about the HRC. Neither were present at today's meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This commission looks forward to participating in their first community event, Ambler EAC's EarthFest on April 29th, 2023.

The members are tasked with thinking about potential future steps and/or actions they would be interested in taking in regards to public statements against anti-semitism, etc, long term goals for increasing presence in town as well as what the budget would be for specific acts or projects and bring to the next quarterly meeting to present. Ms. Valerio will follow up with the community members who are interested in learning more about the commission and invite them to the next meeting. It was brought to the commission's attention the the HRC was not in the most recent issue of Ambler Hometown News. Ms. Valerio will contact the borough and request that the blurb from the last issue be included on-going.

Future meetings will be held the first Wednesday at 6:30PM in 2023, in the following months:

July 5, 2023

October 4, 2023

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this meeting or other business. Ms. Adams moved the meeting to be adjourned; Ms. Wingfield seconded, motion carried.

Katie Kirszenblat
HRC Panel Member / Secretary