

AMBLER BOROUGH HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

The fourth 2023 quarterly meeting of the HRC was held Wednesday, October 4, 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 Frazier, Ms. Katie Kirszenblat, Ms. 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. Old Business:

- This commission is still looking for a new member to fill the active vacancy
- Ms. Valerio was going to meet with Karen, a community member who works at Wissahickon Middle School and provides support to the LGBTQIA+ community there – this meeting still needs to be rescheduled
- Ms. Valerio and Ms. Kirszenblat met with the Borough Manager, Mary Aversa on 9/13/23 – to be continued in new business

2. New Business:

- Ms. Valerio and Ms. Kirszenblat met with the Borough Manager, Mary Aversa on 9/13/23 – members of the commission were able to get a refresher on the background and roles/involvement the borough can partake in regarding the commission. The borough can provide a budget for marketing materials and training opportunities. The HRC was asked to provide a budget to Ms. Aversa to be included in the discussion for funds to be allocated for the following year.
- Ms. Frazier had previously drafted a budget for marketing materials for the commission. Ms. Valerio updated/made more specific to submit to the borough for review for the 2024 budget
- Rotary Grant Application – this is closed for 2023, re-visit for 2024 applications
- Tri-State Human Relations Coalition's meeting 7/12/23: Unfortunately, none of our members were able to participate in this meeting but will plan to do so on-going as schedules permit
- Upper Dublin HRC event on "white supremacist propaganda, antisemitism and fighting hate" took place on 9/28/23. Ms. Frazier was able to participate via zoom. While this commission had not been included in the planning, it was beneficial to be able to participate and sparked the conversation of how can this commission be more involved in events like this the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the commission will follow up with the community members who are interested in learning more about the commission and invite them to the next meeting. Ms. Valerio will re-schedule the meeting with Karen from Wissahickon Middle School to discuss what the barriers are within their programs supporting the LGBTQIA+ youth. The blurb about the Ambler HRC is to be included in all on-going editions of the Hometown News which is distributed quarterly by the Ambler Borough. Ms. Valerio proposed the 2024 meeting schedule as listed below --

Future meetings will be held the first Wednesday at 6:30PM in 2024, in the following months:

January 3, 2024

April 3, 2024

July 3, 2024

October 2, 2024

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Katie Kirszenblat HRC Panel Member / Secretary