

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 24, 2021, 7:00 P.M.**

**In attendance:** Frederick Stanczak, Stephen Albert, Sharyn Brauns, Nancy Reilly, Linda Quinn, Maxine Katz, John Fraser, and Freda Savana. Also present were Borough Manager John Davis, Mayor Strouse, and Councilperson Ben Bell. Commission Member Evelyn Rodriguez was absent.

**Minutes:** Mr. Albert noted that under Approval of Minutes, it states that, "Mr. Albert clarified under the January 27, 2021 meeting minutes, the term "conversion" should be "conversation." Mr. Albert said it actually should be "conversion" and with the way things are going, it's important and we do want the word "conversion," as in conversion therapy, not conversation. With that revision, the February 24, 2021 Minutes were approved.

**Community Partnerships: The Peace Center.** Gayle Evans from the Peace Center did provide the requested materials and Maxine forwarded that to the HRC members. There was discussion as to how to engage relationships between the organizations out there and the HRC. Having a physical presence in the different groups so the HRC can build a relationship with them is important. The purpose and responsibilities of the HRC as stated in the ordinance were discussed so as to clarify the HRC's role when making such a presence at any organization's meeting. The HRC's mission is factfinding and in that process try to bring parties together to agree upon what occurred and try to come to resolution.

The Central Bucks Regional Police Department (CBPRD) is aware of the HRC. CBPRD now has a victim assistant division and part of what they do is follow up on incidents.

A subcommittee of the HRC, Nancy Reilly, Sharon Brauns, Linda Quinn, Maxine Katz, and Freda Savana, will meet before next month's HRC meeting to come up with some material about groups that the HRC may potentially have representation at or liaison with.

**Community Partnerships: A Woman's Place Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force (Linda Quinn).** One arm of this task force is going to be focused on community relationships and impact. When Linda was involved, they had a training called Cultural Competency where the audience was volunteers who received information about concepts of leveling the playing field, bias, etc. Linda thinks this is a good partnership for the HCR and will be getting in touch with her contact of the Task Force in a week or so and then provide more information here next month.

**Event of Sunday, March 21, 2021.** Mayor Strouse discussed the vigil, the first one since November 2020. The occurrence at the event was described as known by the Mayor. The police were there and they are continuing their investigation. It is not believed that everything was one-sided. After any vigil, the police discuss what was done well and what wasn't, and they did so in this instance. The police must be very careful to preserve the First Amendment rights of everyone and also try to prevent physical contact of the groups. The police were not well informed about this vigil taking place and they really need better communication need advance notice. The HRC is a possible referral or resource for police.

**Old/New Business:** None.

**Adjournment:** 8:03 p.m. (Katz-Reilly).

Mr. Davis advised Ms. Reilly she is now an ex officio member.

Nancy Reilly, Sharon Brauns, Linda Quinn, Maxine Katz, and Freda Savana, stayed on the Zoom meeting for the purpose of deciding when they could get together as an HRC Subcommittee so that they could go over potential groups the HRC may wish to align with, make their presence at their meetings, and devise a strategy for education based on the Peace Center's offerings as well as any ideas from A Woman's Place. This Subcommittee will have a Zoom meeting on March 31, 2021, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Ament  
Executive Assistant  
Borough of Doylestown

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