

Doylestown Borough Human Relations Commission
Minutes of August 26, 2026 Meeting:

Present: Fred Stanczak, Chair, Stephen Albert, Maxine Katz, Stephanie O'Mara, Abigail O'Mara, Student Member, Freda Savana, Rev. Thomas McComas, DTHRC

The meeting was convened at 7:00 pm at the Doylestown Borough Town Hall. The last set of meeting minutes was approved at a prior meeting, so there were no new minutes to be approved.

The agenda items were: 1) The History Research Project, 2) Planning the future of the Doylestown Borough HRC – Discussion of future activities; 3) Coordination with Doylestown Township HRC and other organizations; and 4) Old/New business.

Stephen Albert shared an article with the members that provides a history of the Lenape people and the tragic story of the loss of their land, followed by persecution, exile, and suppression of their culture in Pennsylvania and across the country. Stephen also shared materials showing the ceramic tile project that he helped to bring into creation at Lenape Middle School. There was a consensus that the topics addressed in these materials can be the subject of future presentations sponsored by the HRC.

Abby O'Mara, the student HRC member, agreed with the suggestion that students from neighboring high schools should also be approached to participate in the student presentations. Abby has friends at CB East and South who she can approach to possibly act as liaisons in the schools. Abby said that students who are Juniors would be the best prospects. Evianne Casey (Eve) is also the student member of the DTHRC and is willing to help with moving the next presentation forward. Abby volunteered to create a flyer that can be circulated to students at CB West, South, and East.

We began the meeting by discussing possible topics for the next student presentation. We reviewed the notes from the December, 2025 meeting (attached) which is a detailed explanation of the overall design of the student program and a list of topics, including the Fannie Chapman session which already occurred. There was a consensus that the presentation was a great success and that we should move forward with the next part of the program. We reviewed the materials from last December, including the four possible topics for future presentations. There was agreement that, except for the CBSD topic, the other topics discussed will be presented to participating students to gauge their interest.

We also discussed continuation of the series of presentations by HRC. There was agreement that the past events addressing the creation of a welcoming community, bullying, and immigration were successful. It was noted that the moderator, Danny Thomas, was instrumental in making those events a success and that there should be an effective moderator for future events. The

topics we discussed were the history and current status of voting in Bucks County and the state of economic opportunity and deprivation. Other topics can be discussed at future meetings.

Rev. Steve McComas, who is a member of the Doylestown Township HRC, attended the meeting and contributed to the discussion. He also described the DTHRC's recent activities and expressed interest in the Township and Borough HRCs working together toward common goals. Steve described an ongoing effort by the DTHRC, which is the "Gather for Good" project. This is an effort to bring people together to exchange ideas and talk to one another in an accepting, open atmosphere. The next Gather for Good session is scheduled for September 3rd at the Township Community Center, and DBHRC members were invited to attend. He also mentioned that DTHRC is considering partnering with the Borough HRC to host an event featuring food from different cultures, possibly at a location adjacent to Borough Hall, and a first-Tuesday-of-the-month event, when people are encouraged to say "Hi" to others they encounter in public.

Various HRC members shared links relevant to Layle Lane, the Human Library project, the River Towns website and Chicago author Studs Terkel's interview series that was aired on Chicago public radio. All of those links are available from the emails shared with members after the meeting.

We also discussed looking at the "Human Library" project, which originated in Denmark, as a model for future activities. Stephen provided links to the Human Library and River Towns sites via email.