

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2021 | 6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The following members of the commission were present: Donna Fann-Boyle, Kathleen Chalmers, David Devore, Bernadette Hannah-Barone and Andrew Laureti. Kate Simpson was not present.

Also in attendance were Township Manager Stephanie Teoli Kuhls and Supervisor Anna Payne.

2. Election of Officers

Ms. Hannah-Barone was elected Chair on motion of Ms. Fann-Boyle with second by Mr. Laureti. Mr. Laureti was elected Vice-Chair on motion of Ms. Hannah-Barone with second by Ms. Fann-Boyle. Ms. Fann-Boyle was elected Secretary on motion of Ms. Hannah-Barone with second by Mr. Laureti.

3. Approval of Minutes

The December 29, 2020 meeting minutes were approved on motion of Ms. Hannah-Barone with second by Ms. Fann-Boyle.

4. Issue Discussion: Neshaminy School Mascot

Ms. Fann-Boyle provided detailed background on the 2012 PHRC complaint that was filed against the Neshaminy School District, noting her involvement. She explained that, after investigation, the PHRC ruled against the school district. A subsequent appeal by the district was affirmed by the Commission. Ms. Fann-Boyle explained that, when another appeal was made by the school district, she withdrew her complaint due to harassment and threats to her family. The PHRC took up the issue and there was an eventual ruling to keep the “re#s!in” name but to remove the offensive imagery.

Discussion then ensued regarding what the group might do to take a position on this issue. It was agreed that sending a letter to the Board of School Directors on behalf of the Commission would be worthwhile.

5. Mission Statement

Ms. Hannah-Barone and Mr. Laureti led discussion on the concept of identifying a mission statement for the group. There was consensus that the development of a mission statement made sense as a starting point for the group. Ms. Hannah-Barone and Mr. Laureti agreed to create a first draft of the statement to be distributed to the group for review and discussion at the next meeting.

6. Potential Partnerships

The following individuals and entities were identified as potential partners:

The Peace Center
NAACP
Frank Farry – Human Services Commission
Marlene Pray – Doylestown – LGBTQ

Mr. Devore suggested that the Commission consider gathering data to ascertain the problem areas in the community.

Mr. Laureti offered to work on various tools to communicate the Commission's message.

It was agreed that the next meeting should include: discussion of mission statement and sharing of resources and partnership suggestions.

7. Next Meeting

Monday, February 9th at 6:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.