

## **Abington HRC: March 4, 2020**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Announcements:**

Ambler HRC: Wants to learn from us. We are invited to come to their next meeting, May 13 at 7:00, to speak about how we run our HRC. They are also invited to come to our next meeting.

Abington Friends School will continue their Community Conversation on March 11 from 6:30-8:30. It's called "Food, Equity and Justice".

#### **Keswick Theatre Program**

We've been asked to participate, by the Abington Police, in their all-day training on March 28, of the theater staff. Our portion, which will take place from 1:00 – 2:00 pm, will help their security and other personnel learn how to help people with disabilities. We'll review how to deal with service animals and do our implicit bias program. We expect there to be a lot of questions and discussion, as there was the last time we did a program for them.

#### **Community Dialogues**

Following some distressing events in the Township, we've begun assessing whether the HRC wants to coordinate and facilitate community dialogues. It's our role to be mediators, e.g., neutral third parties. We want everyone to feel safe and, therefore, we can help them have the conversations. At this point, we will brainstorm a list of community stakeholders who can be invited to a private meeting, which we will facilitate, at which they can develop action plans. It does not fall on the HRC to follow through on the action plans, which could be for any variety of different activities; that is up to the stakeholder groups. We should address and invite representation from all of the protected classes, but we should also be specific about the issue that is currently presenting in our community, which revolves around race.

We'll brainstorm online – by next Wednesday (March 11) – names of stakeholders we think should be invited. Kristen is putting up a spreadsheet. Jeffrey will take this list to Rev. Mitchell who has agreed to host the stakeholder meeting.

#### **Size of HRC**

We have agreed that having 8 members is acceptable. The Commissioners need to change the ordinance to reflect this. Also, they should be certain that the ordinance says that each member has a three year term.

**Film: Walking While Black**

Kristen arranged for us to preview this film. Some of us have done so and we think it should be shown in conjunction with a program with the police. Perhaps it can be worked into the Community Dialogue programs.

Next meeting: April 1.