

Abington HRC Meeting: September 11, 2017

Present: Rosemary Jenkins, Dave Rondinelli, Amy McDonald, John Carne, Joanne Kleiner, Shelley Rosenberg. Absent: Meredith Gill

Statement about Charlottesville: We sent a statement to many of our township commissioners, some of whom put it on their newsletters. One commissioner said he would read it into the minutes of the Commissioners meeting in September. At the September meeting, our colleague Larry Jackson, who passed away recently, will be honored by the Township Commissioners for his service to the HRC.

Plans for the Coming Year: We would like to meet with the new Township Manager, Richard Manfredi, and the new Police Chief, Chief Livingood (with whom we met during our first year when he was the Asst. Chief). Joanne will contact them both to make arrangements.

We then discussed two types of programs that we would like to do. The first are introductory meetings for Township organizations and the second are dialogue meetings for community leaders.

The outreach programs to organizations are those we have been conducting for several years, where we go to the organizations at a time and place of their choosing. We recently made revisions to the program and this is basically ready to go. We will, if necessary, revise our existing invitation letter and start sending it to the organizations that we have identified.

Based on our training with Suzanne Buchanan (DOJ), we also want to start dialogues with community leaders to discover what issues they feel are pressing in our township. We will invite small groups to our meetings and ask them the following four questions, which we will provide them in advance:

1. What is going on in our community that a dialogue could address?
2. If there were a dialogue here, what would be its goals?
3. Who should be included in the dialogue?
4. What format should we use?

We brainstormed a possible list of community leaders. These include: religious leaders (we need to make a specific list), Rotary clubs (Glenside and Jenkintown), NAACP, No Place for Hate (Tamika Holt, Karen Weaver, and Yvette Jones), Judges (Price and Kessler), Police officials (Lt. Kelley Warner and Deputy Chief Pat Mulloy), Abington/Rockledge Democratic Committee (Mike Barbiero), Abington Republican Committee. We will also invite all of the Township Commissioners to a separate meeting. (Since there are 15 commissioners, we might invite them in smaller groups.)

Rosemary will draft a letter of invitation. We need to work on setting up appropriate groupings. We also want to work on the actual program so that we feel comfortable that it will flow smoothly and produce optimal results. We believe that we will be ready to start these programs in January, so will want to have groupings and the invitation ready after the October meeting in

order to give people time to plan to attend. There is money from this year's Jenkintown Rotary grant for materials to provide to participants of either program.

Finally, Rosemary offered to invite Ronni Polaneczky, columnist for the Daily News and Inquirer and author of *The Art of Listening* (and her sister), to speak to us about conducting effective dialogues.

Next meeting: Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2017 from 7 to 9 pm.