

Haverford Township Human Relations Commission

~ Meeting Minutes ~

May 18, 2016

2325 Darby Rd., Havertown, PA

Members Present: Jennifer Leith, Virginia Hammond, Bill Gowie, Jr., Mitch Clair

Jennifer called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03PM.

The minutes from the March 18, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

- Current Business

- Jennifer explained that there are 2 sub-Committees within our HHRC: an Education and Engagement Committee and a Legislative and Business Outreach Committee and that each member of the HHRC is encouraged to participate in one of these Committees. Bill volunteered to be a part of the Legislative and Business Outreach Committee and Virginia volunteered to be a part of the Education and Engagement Committee.
- PA-HRC MOU, training, data sharing update: Jennifer reported that she participated in a conference call on May 16, 2016 with John Clark and Carl Summerson of the PA-HRC regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). PA-HRC is in receipt of our signed MOU. The next step is for the PA-HRC Executive Director to sign it at which time we will receive a fully executed copy. The MOU is an understanding to avoid duplication of work. Essentially, if a local HRC receives a complaint, the local HRC will notify the PA-HRC; and if the PA-HRC receives a complaint from the local HRC jurisdiction, the PA-HRC will notify the local HRC. Thus, the PA-HRC and local HRC will share data related to the complaint. It was noted that any complaints related to gender identity or sexual orientation will be handled by HHRC as our ordinance is more robust than the PA-HRC law.

Additionally, if the PA-HRC has funding in the Fall, Carl Summerson will provide a basic mediation training for us. It should be noted that this training is not a certified mediator training. Discussion took place about potentially having a Mediation Training for the HHRC. Bill suggested the Center for Resolution in Media on which he is a Board member. He will share contact information with Jennifer to research training. Virginia mentioned Good Shepard Mediation in Philadelphia.

- Creative Expression Contest update and next steps: Jennifer reported that the student winners will have a trip to Media on Friday, 5/20/16. Certificates of Achievement and the cash prizes will be awarded to the winners on 6/15/16 at the middle school honors night. Bill and Jennifer will attend to represent the HHRC.

It was noted that if the contest continues next year, we should solicit monetary donations from local businesses rather than use our budget funds for cash awards.

Jennifer suggested that planning for a 2017 Creative Expression Contest begin in September and secure sponsors through December with the intent of a public launch of the contest in January 2017. The sponsors would be listed on contest materials when the launch occurs.

- New Business

- Tri-State HRC: The next Tri-State HRC meeting will be 7/6/16 at 9:30am - 110 N. 8th St., 5th floor. HHRC members can contact Coordinator, Emil Sadloch emil@sadloch.com if planning to attend. Tri-State HRC is good networking opportunity to meet people from other local HRC's and learn about what other HRC's are doing.
- PA-HRC emailed Jennifer asking if our HHRC would provide written or oral testimony for a public hearing on 6/7/16 on PHRC's framework and effectiveness. This request and hearing is evolving from several the recent turmoil within the PHRC. It was decided that since the HHRC has had a very limited working relationship with the PA-HRC up to this point, we would not provide testimony at the upcoming hearing.
- The International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) is having its annual conference in Philadelphia in August 7-11. More information can be found: Go to: <http://www.iaohra.org/#!save-the-date-iaohra-2016/i785p>
- It was proposed and agreed that HHRC will not meet in July but will reconvene at its scheduled meeting – September 21, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Leith

Remaining 2016 HHRC meeting dates:

September 21, 2016 – 7pm to 8pm

November 16, 2016 – 7pm to 8pm