



West Norriton Township Human Relations Commission
Meeting Minutes
Jan 26, 2023

The West Norriton Township Human Relations Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on 01/26/23 by Joan Wurzel.

Present: Joan Wurzel, Walt Smith, Anne Pavone, Harma Ellens

Apologies: Avery Manning, Karen Hayman, Shelly Wilson, Dwayne Mosier

Minutes: October 2022 meeting minutes accepted

Old Business

- a) **MEI scorecard:** Harma and Joan met with the Board of Commissioners on Tuesday Nov 1 to present gaps in the MEI score for West Norriton and obtained agreement to appoint Jason Bobst as LGBTQ+ Liaison to the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners will work with the Police Department to appoint an LGBTQ+ Liaison in the Police Department. Harma will prepare the MEI score submission before the Feb 2023 HRC meeting.
- b) **Movie Festival wrap up:** The movie Hidden Figures was shown on Jan 15, 2023. The event organized by Dwayne went off without a hitch. Monica D'Antonio moderated a very interesting discussion on race and gender bias after the movie.
- c) **Ordinance to outlaw conversion therapy:** Joan is preparing a draft ordinance.
- d) **Posts to Facebook:** An article about the Lenape Tribe, who lived in our area was posted to celebrate Native American Heritage Month (Nov). The Universal Month for Human Rights was highlighted in a Dec post.
- e) **LCD screen:** Will celebrate MLK day
- f) **More training:** Harma attended an HRC summit organized by the Lower Gwynedd HRC. Marcia Taylor spoke about the Cultural Proficiency and Equity Student Ambassadors program, which is currently active in 8 school districts in Montgomery County. A short-term goal is to expose students to cultural proficiency. The long-term goal is to attain educational equity for the schools in

Montgomery County. The WNT HRC will explore options to partner with this group.

New Business:

- a) **Complaints received:** none
- b) **Schedule an information session with our police:** Anne will schedule this.
- c) **Next film festival:** March 2023
- d) **Wrap up of 2022 and 2023 planning.** Joan suggested a presentation to the Board of Commissioners on 2022 accomplishments and plans for 2023
- e) **Two members resigned from the HRC:** Karen Hayman, Shelly Wilson

Public Comments: none

Ongoing Action items

Prepare MEI score submission (Harma)

Prepare draft anti-conversion therapy ordinance (Joan)

Get details for March 5 Tri-state HRC zoom meeting attendance (Joan)

Set up HRC meeting with Police (Anne)

Learn more about the Student Ambassadors program at the Norristown Area High School (all)

Completed Actions

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday Feb 23, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Harma Ellens.