

Haverford Township Human Relations Commission Meeting
Wednesday, January 21, 2015
7:00pm – 8:00pm
Commissioners Conference Room - Quatrani Building
2325 Darby Road, Havertown, PA

Minutes

In attendance: Rich Buxton, Steve Elkins, Florence Goff, Jennifer Leith, Marcia Martinez-Helfman

Minutes from the November 19, 2014 meeting were read and approved with two exceptions: 1) the corrected spelling of Ms. Martinez-Helfman's name, and 2) a correction of the seventh paragraph, so that it more accurately reads: "The consensus was that plans for a public meeting would be tabled until . . ."

Ms. Goff welcomed and congratulated Ms. Leith on being the newest member of the HRC.

Ms. Goff then turned the meeting over to Mr. Qui Alexander. Mr. Alexander led the group in discussion and interactive exercises that included basic terminology related to gender and sexuality, and issues that affect the LGBTQ community, e.g. the opportunity to earn a living, the ability to pursue health and happiness, the ability to take care of love ones, and the ability to be safe in ones community. A Q & A session followed.

Meeting adjourned: 8:11pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 18, 7:00am, Quatrani Building, 2325 Darby Rd.

Respectfully submitted,

Florence D. Goff
Florence Goff

References:

- *An Ally's Guide to Issues Facing LGBT Americans*
- *Trans* Terms*
- *Gender Bread Person*
- *Identity Spectrum*
- *Diagnosing Difference* (a documentary, not shown but recommended by Mr. Alexander)

HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Commission Meeting
Commissioners Conference Room
Quatrani Building
March 18, 2015

MINUTES

Attendees: Florence Goff, Chair, Jennifer Leith, Marcia Martínez-Helfman, Patrick Oleskey.

Ms. Goff called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

Ms. Martínez-Helfman made a motion to approve the minutes without correction, which was seconded by Ms. Leith, and unanimously approved.

Ms. Goff welcomed Mr. Oleskey to the Board, and noted that Ms. Leith is also a relative newcomer attending her second meeting of the HRC.

Ms. Goff reported that the proposal for a work share agreement presented to the HRC by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) is under review by the Township Solicitor. She stated that it does not appear to be a controversial proposal and, rather, an agreement that a number of townships in Pennsylvania have with the Commonwealth. She will continue to inquire about the Solicitor's review of the proposal.

Ms. Goff reported on her participation by phone in the last meeting of the Tri-State Human Relations Coalition (THRC) on February 24, 2015. She provided the new members of the HRC with background on the formation and work of the THRC. She also noted that the THRC events provide great networking opportunities, and that any of our HRC members may attend their meetings in person or by telephone. If interested, members should contact Emil Sadloch, emil@sadloch.com, 215.736.8869. Additionally, Ms. Goff stated that it may be of value to the THRC to invite Thomas J. Zimmerman, Assistant Chief Counsel for the PHRC, to address the THRC at an upcoming meeting.

Ms. Goff then reviewed the HRC's activities of the past year, including the development of a web presence on the Haverford Township web site; the development of a brochure; and participation in Township Day. The Committees that were formed to carry out these tasks were the Education Committee; Public Relations Committee; and Web Site Committee.

Ms. Goff then asked for consideration of whether the HRC may wish to plan its direction for the coming year. After discussion, Ms. Goff suggested the possibility of establishing two new committees. The first would be the Education and Engagement Committee, which would focus on expanding the knowledge and expertise of HRC members, and engaging the community by building relationships within the community and increasing awareness and understanding of what the HRC does. For example, the committee may host a public event to educate the public about the HRC's purpose, a school writing contest on a topic tied to the work of the HRC that would involve the Haverford Township Commissioners in an award presentation event, and other such activities. The second, a Legislation Committee, would monitor legal as well as advocacy activities and developments at the local, state and federal levels. After discussion, members volunteered to serve on each of the Committees, and Ms. Goff, as Chair, agreed to serve *ex officio* on both. Ms. Leith and Mr. Oleskey agreed to serve on the

Education and Engagement Committee, and Ms. Goff offered to contact Steve Elkins to see if he would also be willing to participate on this Committee. Ms. Martinez-Helfman agreed to serve on the Legislation Committee, and Ms. Goff will call Barbara Rittinger Rigo and Mitch Clair to ask them to serve on this Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Martínez-Helfman

Next Meeting, May 20th

Haverford Township HRC Meeting Minutes

Nov. 18th, 2015

Members Present: Florence Goff, Jennifer Leith, Patrick Oleskey

Florence called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05PM.

The minutes from the July 15th, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved. Florence will be sending the July 15th minutes to Larry Holmes.

The members present reviewed the new HRC brochure. Several edits that had been previously proposed were accepted. Jennifer updated the members present on the progress of the Creative Expression Poetry Contest. Jennifer and Florence met with the Superintendent and Principal of Haverford Middle School to discuss the particulars of the poetry contest. The Principal suggested that the scope of the contest be narrowed and offered... Florence is in the process of identifying 9 judges. Seven judges have been identified with 2 pending. The winners will get cash prize plus a tour of the Delaware County Court House and government center with a possibility of recognition in front of the council. Three winners each will be selected from the 6th, 7th, 8th grades. Florence confirmed the HRC budget for 2016, which will more than cover contest prizes. A waiver form for the winners was reviewed and approved. The current plan is to go live with the contest in middle to late January. The name of the contest will be the "Creative Expressions Poetry Contest." Florence acknowledged the extensive work that Jennifer has done to further the contest and prepare for its roll out. Florence and Jennifer have continued to move forward with finalizing various details of the contest. Florence offered her continued assistance with the contest even following the end of her term (at the end of the calendar year).

Florence suggested that a member or two from the HHRC go in front of the Haverford Board of Commissioners January 2016 general meeting and provide information on the poetry contest and the HHRC in general. Jen will talk with Gloria Cugini, in the Township Manager's Office about getting on the docket for the next Board of Commissions meeting. Jennifer suggested that the members wait until the February Board meeting in case any other HHRC members wanted to speak at the hearing. Following a brief discussion, it was decided that the members would wait to present until the February meeting. Florence stated that she had requested confirmation of the 2016 HHRC meeting dates with Mr. Gentile, Township Manager Confirmation should take place in late December / early January.

The HHRC paperwork has been submitted to finalize a partnership with the state HRC. The HHRC can withdraw from this partnership if it is deemed necessary.

Florence shared a memorandum that she received from the Tri-State Human Relations Coalition. Florence highlighted the importance of the HHRC maintaining a presence on the Tri-State HRC. The memorandum referenced a proposed change to the state Anti-Discrimination Law. The

proposed bill could potentially impact all local HRCs in a significant way. (A copy of the proposed changes to state legislation is attached.)

Florence suggested that Jennifer act as the temporary chair until the new members are appointed to the HHRC in the new calendar year. Florence also suggested that a Vice Chair be assigned and a member of the HHRC be designated as the liaison to the Tri-State HRC.

The next meeting date for the Tri-State HRC is on Dec. 16th from 9:30am-11am, at 110 N. 8th St., 5th floor. Emil Sadloch (emil@sadloch.com) is the convener of the meeting. This is a secure building, so the courtesy of an email to Emil when you plan to attend is requested. Pushed to the January, 2016 agenda is the updates by members of the Business and Legislative Sub-Committee (Barbara Rittinger Rigo and/or Mitch Clair) on 1) the outreach to the business community initiative, and 2) scheduling a training/education session with the state PHRC partnership program, which we joined several months ago.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Next HRC Meeting: January 20, 2016.

7-8pm, Conf. Rm. Quatrani Bldg.