

Human Relations Commission Meeting

The Plymouth Township Human Relations Commission held a public meeting at the Plymouth Township Building on Monday, September 18, 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following were present:

Maria Weidinger	Human Relations Commission Member, Chair
Amardeep Singh	Human Relations Commission Member (Absent)
Joretha Bourjolly	Human Relations Commission Member
Kathy Kempfer	Human Relations Commission Member

Ms. Bourjolly and Ms. Kempfer both spoke about the training they attended at Good Shepard Mediation Program in Philadelphia, led by Ms. Cathy Cardozo. The training focused on mediation and facilitation, and the various phases on how to gather information to convey it to others. Mediation is to strive for a win-win, where an ending result for both parties coming to a compromise. However, Ms. Kempfer stated its okay not to come to an outcome. Ms. Bourjolly stated mediation and facilitation is a voluntary process where a consent form is filled out. Ms. Kempfer indicated the mediator takes a neutral stance, understanding both sides of the parties. Ms. Weidinger asked if Ms. Bourjolly had any examples. Ms. Kempfer stated legal issues were an example that they touched upon. Ms. Bourjolly stated especially custody battles. Ms. Kempfer and Ms. Bourjolly stated they learned what was called Caucusing. Which is a confidential meeting of members of one side of a dispute, where all parties go to separate rooms to discuss the issue at hand.

Ms. Bourjolly and Ms. Kempfer stated the training was very interesting and helpful. The speaker at the training, Ms. Cardozo, stated if any issues do arise she would be happy to help for guidance, and can refer other parties to Good Shepard. Guest: (Renee Bess) asked if they addressed how to handle emotional people. Ms. Kempfer stated they did not mention that, however, if someone does become emotional then they could go to a caucus. Ms. Weidinger stated if someone fills out a complaint form online, they have to reach out to both parties, and if one of the parties does not want to participate then it stops right there. Ms. Bourjolly stated the training helped with how to be "present" and listen to people so they could see how well they were obtaining the information that is being said.

Ms. Weidinger went over the minutes of last meeting. She stated her 3 year term is up for 2020, Ms. Bourjolly will be 2022, Ms. Kempfer 2021, and Mr. Amardeep 2023. Mr. Amardeep is working on the mission statement while Ms. Weidinger is working on a draft of a complaint form. Ms. Weidinger called for the approval of the minutes. Minutes were approved.

The members of the commission went through the draft complaint form, adding and taking away necessary items. Ms. Weidinger added she saw the Human Relations Commission was added to the website. Members discussed anyone could print the form from the website, complete it, mark confidential, and be sent to Ms. Karen Weiss's attention.

Ms. Weidinger asked if anyone would be interested in taking over as chair. Ms. Kempfer stated she does not feel comfortable taking that position. Ms. Bourjolly stated she did not have an interest in it either.

Ms. Weidinger stated the next meeting will be on November 13th or 20th at 6:30 p.m. and will reach out to Ms. Liz Bradbury from LGBTQ community center on attending.

Ms. Weidinger discussed making Plymouth Dementia friendly. She offered to come in and conduct a training to teach the Departments about Dementia. It would be an hour training at no cost for the Township. Ms. Weidinger stated she was going to attend the workshop meeting to reach out to the Police Chief and Community Center Director on facilitating a training.

Ms. Weidinger mentioned the memorandum of understanding is fully executed with the State.

Ms. Weidinger stated she will be out for surgery and wanted to know who will be the stand in for the committee. Members agreed that Council members would be the most appropriate.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Annalisa Primus
Recording Secretary