

**Lower Gwynedd Township  
Human Relations Commission  
Thursday, March 2, 2023  
Meeting Minutes**

Commission Members:

Andrew Abramson  
Jimmy Chong  
Meredith Roark  
Stella Lee -Via zoom  
Christine Lamar

Supervisors Present:

Janine Martin  
Danielle Duckett via zoom

Staff:

Michelle Farzetta – absent (taking minutes via recording)

**Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Approval of the minutes from February 2, 2023** – Mr. Chong made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lamar to approve the February 2, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion passed.

**Speaker Dr. Bernadine Ahonkhai from the Coalition for Racial Equity and Social Justice-** Dr. Ahonkhai spoke of her work, how she came to create Coalition4Justice and provided information on their programs and mission. Coalition4Justice is safe space for individuals to come together. They provide education sessions twice a month on topics relating to racism, education, housing and civil rights. Recently they received grant funding that allows them to go to school districts and provide an eight-week course addressing topics of bullying, cyberspace harassment and social justice. Currently the program is being run in North Penn and Norristown School Districts at the middle school level. Dr. Ahonkhai mentioned that she has approached Wissahickon School District, but was told that the program did not fit into their curriculum. A discussion was then had regarding who to contact to advocate for this eight-week program and how to go about making this communication with Wissahickon School District. Several options were mentioned and it was decided that Ms. Lamar would draft up a letter that will be reviewed at the next meeting in April. The letter will be discussed at that time and then sent to the Superintendent of School for Wissahickon and the President of the School Board. A few members also discussed speaking with other families in the district to see if they would also advocate for the program to be offered.

There was also a conversation regarding advertising events for the Coalition4Justice in the Township newsletters and e-newsletters to create more interest and awareness. It was also suggested that Dr. Ahonkhai reach out to the Lower Gwynedd Police Stations CRU team to possibly create a partnership for community events.

**Old Business – Brochure and Complaint Process re-drafts-** Mr. Abramson completed a draft that was circulated amongst the group. Everyone agreed that the draft looked good and they would like to move forward with having Mr. Neil Stein, our Solicitor take a look at it. Ms. Lamar is going to send a copy to Mr. Stein and will bring back any corrections he makes to the next meeting. This decision was approved by all members.

**Updates from Board of Supervisors Liasson- Janine Martin** – Ms. Martin did not have any updates.

**New Business-** Ms. Duckett asked if the HRC reserved a table for the Fall Fest. Ms. Martin is going to talk to Sandi Feight, the Parks and Recreation Director, to see how they would go about paying the fee for the table. Ms. Martin clarified the date and time of the event and asked that someone go online and complete the request form for the table.

There was also a discussion regarding Juneteenth. Ms. Duckett stated that last year there was an event at Bethlehem Baptist Church. The church is just starting to make plans for this years event. Ms. Duckett will update them with any new information at the next meeting.

**Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.