

Pottstown Human Relations Commission

November Minutes of the General Meeting

Date: November 9, 2010

Place: Commission office on the corner of Chestnut and Washington Streets in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Time: The meeting began at 6:30 PM

Chairperson Paez opened the meeting. Commissioner Brooks offered the opening prayer.

Present at the meeting were Chairperson Rita Paez, Commissioners Nancy Altman, Reggie Brooks, Ken Harrison and Rebecca Villegas.

Review of the minutes – Correction needed - the spelling of chairperson Paez's name

Commissioner Altman reported on the October Borough Council meeting. The Borough Manager acknowledged that he received the budget request letter and she felt that the council members actively listened to her report where she made a point to state that an outside light was needed to illuminate the walkway in front of our entrance and that more security was needed inside the office.

The commissioners agreed that we should send a thank you letter to members of Borough Council in advance of their decision and as an inquiry to ascertain the findings and the results of their decision. Once we send the letter, Commissioner Altman volunteered to contact the Borough Manager to find out about the decision. Commissioner Altman will contact Jeremy Burton from the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission for more direction.

Commissioner Altman also reported that she attended a lecture on diversity at Cabrini College on Monday, November 8, 2010. Secretary Hicks also attended the lecture.

The brochure was discussed. The address will be moved from the back of the brochures to the front, the mission, vision, and the core values will be added to the back, and the mandate will be placed on the center back. The inside of the brochure will contain the Spanish translation.

The essay contest was next on the agenda. The subject will be "justice" – Commissioner Villegas will begin making contact with school representative in December and will report her activity to the chairperson and to the rest of the commissioners.

Because it is often difficult for Mr. Burton to attend our meetings, Chairperson Paez will try to arrange to use Skype software on Commissioner Altman's computer while Commissioner Villegas will use a smaller computer to take notes.

Chairperson Paez suggested a strategic plan for the diversity parade – planning would take approximately 10 months. Commissioner Harrison suggested possibly participating in the Park and Recreation parade scheduled for July 4. Commissioner Villegas will investigate the venture further. Commissioner Altman suggested having a celebratory event at Riverside Park where there will be different types of food, dancers, etc.

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Commissioner Paez urged teamwork in all activities. Whether spoken or written, all activities should be heard by the commissioners and approved by her before any action is taken.

Other points of discussion were:

- To develop a long-term (3-5 years) strategic plan for the commission while determining how the plan would complement the strategic plan of the Borough
- To quantify our surveys

Two pending activities are intercultural training to be offered to the police department and the community within the next year, and a ride-a-long with a member of the Pottstown Police Department for commissioners Altman and Villegas.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2010 at Maximillano's Restaurant, 569 High Street in Pottstown. Maximillano's is the restaurant that provided the meal for the March meeting under the direction of Commissioner Brooks. Commissioner Villegas will arrange for the meeting. Mr. Burton is planning to attend. This is the last meeting of the year and will be one of open discussion and fellowship.

Chairperson Paez closed the meeting at 7:18.

Respectfully submitted,

Della Hicks

Della Hicks, MAOM