

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021 - 6:00P.M.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Glenn Morgan
Patricia Osborne
Gary White
Rayshma Ali
Samantha Perez

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

John Papagiannakis

The Regular Meeting of the Human Rights Commission was held at the Municipal Building Council Chambers, One Main Street.

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Chairman Glenn Morgan.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes from the previous meeting on May 10, 2021 were discussed and motioned for adoption by Chairman Morgan. Vice Chair Osborne motioned and Rayshma Ali seconded. All members present voted to adopt the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Morgan calls for the Subcommittee Chairs to update the rest of the committee on the work they have been doing. Vice Chair Osborne begins with the Education Committee and states that she is discussing with Dr. Massimino (new Superintendent of WTSD) as soon as he gets settled in to his new role. She also mentions WTSD is ahead of the curve because of the diversity committees in place made up of parents, teachers, and other school stakeholders.

Vice Chair Osborne also announces that John Pappagianakis is under the weather but wanted to announce that Pride Month will be celebrated through the Township and the Mayor and the CHS Gay-Straight Alliance celebrated with a flag raising.

Sargent at Arms Gary White announced June 1st is when the body cameras for PD went into effect, however because the State is slow to roll out the 59 million dollars, every town set to receive funding has been granted an extension. The Township is waiting for funding, but has begun to place orders for the body

cameras.

No other Subcommittee business at this time, so Chairman Morgan moves on to other new business and starts by welcoming new member Samantha Perez to replace Carrie Louer.

Glenn calls for a motion to add Samantha Perez to the Affordable Housing Committee. Vice Chair Osborne motions and Sargent at Arms Gary White seconds.

Chairman Morgan calls for a motion to remove Vice Chair Osborne from the Affordable Housing and Sargent at Arms Gary White to replace her. Rayshma motions and Vice Chair Osborne seconds.

Chairman Morgan announces that the Colonia Corner newspaper in April's edition featured Gary White in the "Who's Who" section. The article highlighted his involvement with the Young Marines and how it is a good alternative to boy scouts. Gary states that all people can get along if we give each other a chance.

Chairman Morgan opens the meeting to the public.

PUBLIC

Victoria Bertsch asks for an update on Dr. Bonnie Nolan to which the Addiction Services Chairwoman Rayshma Ali explains that she has reached out to Dr. Nolan and has not heard back. Dr. Ali acknowledges that it is going to be difficult to get a waiver because of HIPPA.

Additionally, Victoria inquires about Samantha Perez's background. Samantha explains that she works for Senator Vitale's office in constituent relations. Victoria follows up and asks what Samantha's goals are for the HRC. Samantha says that since this is her first meeting she is going to be all ears today and access and hopefully she can be an asset to the HRC team.

Victoria asks which committee Samantha was put on to which Chairman Morgan answers the Affordable Housing committee. Samantha says that her office gets a lot of calls on this topic so hopefully that experience will carry over here.

Victoria voices concerns over the number of people not in favor of the new development because its changing the landscape and the overdevelopment is a reason why the PD number has to be increased which is what people do not want.

Vice Chair Osborne responds by speaking on education and how the elementary schools are capped at 20 children to one classroom, but many are now virtual because of the pandemic.

Victoria asks what the town's stance is on humanitarian issues like the conflict in Palestine and Israel. Vice Chair Osborne states that as individuals up here we can express our opinions but we don't speak for

administration or council. She explains that sometimes that becomes tough because if she gives her input there are people from the public who will believe what the Vice Chair says is the opinion of the entire council or commission which is not true. So in an official setting the Vice Chair explains that our commission members may be reluctant to give an opinion.

No more comments from the public so Chairman Morgan motions to close, Sargent at Arms Gary White motions and Vice Chair Osborne Seconds.

ADJOURN

Chairman Morgan called for a motion to adjourn at 7:15pm. Vice Chair Osborne motions and Rayshma seconded.