



**West Vincent Township  
Human Relations Commission**

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October 23, 2023 7:00 PM**

**Meeting Minutes**

*NOTE: The Board of Supervisors will be in attendance at this meeting.*

Call Meeting to Order

Attendance : Julie Foster, Chris Carroll, Brad Dyer, and Eric Munson

Welcome to the Board of Supervisors

- Bernie Couris
- Sara Shick
- Dana Alan

Welcome New members

- Christopher Carroll
- Eric Munson

Approve Meeting Minutes

- July 24, 2023 meeting minutes : Brad moved to approve, Erick, seconded: approved unanimously.
- NOTE: As the September 25 agenda was not posted in advance of the meeting, no business was conducted, although all HRC members were in attendance.

Old Business

- Proposed Ordinance Revisions

Discussed Ordinance revisions

1. Proposal to remove enforcement provisions

Position:

Dana: Never has had a problem with the advanced procedures b/c is in the BOS control to decide whether to use them. Where has gotten confusing: Questions of meeting and outreach.

Bernie: Opposed to changing the ordinance.

Dana: Opposed to the proposed revisions. They took all of the good language out that stood for what we stand for.

Sarah: Opposed to making changes, without further discussion. It is a one-time or sometimes. Has problems with neighbors investigating neighbors and neighbors hold a trial. Put together a team of Bernie, John, Mark, Robin and Julie to address. Thinks was very clear are not interest in advance procedures.

Who is in favor of repealing the enforcement provisions? The Mark Thompson and John Granger.

Dana and Bernie committed to notify HRC in advance of any future proposed changes to the ordinance.

## 2. Commission's proposed ordinance revisions

- Jurisdiction
- Definition of discrimination: Sara requested a list defining the difference between what is covered by state and federal law and what is not covered.

## 3. Language access

- Request for a plan to language access
- Language line, and ASL interpreter
- Timeframe: February, 2024

## 4. Community Education and Outreach

Dana: Concerned we cannot engage in meetings and outreach

a. Who said that? Mark Thompson

b. Every HRC in Pennsylvania engages in community education and outreach

Phoenixville  
Lower Merion  
Philadelphia  
Gladwynn  
Lancaster

c. Section 6.5E of the Ordinance says the "Commission [has] all of the powers necessary to execute on its duties..."

## 5. Letter from Mark Thompson directing the Commission not to meet.

Section 5.E requires the Commission to meet to promulgate rules and regulations.

Bernie: The Commission does have the authority to meet

Dana: Mark Thompson told Dana that the Commission is like a Zoning Board and can only meet when there is a hearing.

Chris Carroll: That is not how the ordinance is written.

Jacque: Zoning Hearing Board is not an advisory board. As an adjudicatory board, like the Zoning Hearing Board.

Bernie and Dana agreed the HRC should meet on a monthly basis until there is a determination that Commission cannot meet.

Sara noted that any conclusions in this meeting are subject to a vote on the Ordinance, properly published and voted on.

Julie Requested that if there is a change to the directive to the Commission to meet, that the decision is made in a public meeting by the Supervisors, rather than an email from an unelected person.

#### New Business

Jim Hanna 1152 Hollow Road. Does not believe is imprudent for supervisors to take direction from the solicitor on the advisability of the expanded procedures. Question posed: has anyone felt uncomfortable, is there an example of discrimination in the Township that they were aware of or experienced.

In the preamble, the ordinance states we are proud of the fact that we are diverse and welcoming, it is one of the reasons that we live here.

Julie clarified that the ordinance only covers business entities under Section 2.

Jim stated he feels that the township is spending resources that does not exist. Concerned that we may be creating a problem that does not exist.

Brad: Just because something doesn't happen, doesn't mean it couldn't happen. Hope we never have to meet.

Chris and Julie noted a few examples of discrimination that would be covered in the ordinance.

Jim requested additional clarification on what are the gaps with state. Julie and Chris identified the limits on the number of employees, that familial status and marital status are not protected under state or federal law.

Brad moved and Chris seconded motion to adjourn.

Adjourn