

MONMOUTH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Monday, January 9, 2017, 3:30–5:00PM
Agriculture Building
4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The following members were present: Linda Zucaro, John Schwebel, Carolyn Schwebel, Jeff Delaney, Sherri West, Jeff Schwartz, Darryl Hughes and Nina Anderson.

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 pm and followed by the salute to the flag. The November Executive Committee minutes were approved as distributed (C. Schwebel, Hughes).

There was no Treasurer's report, nor were there any standing committee reports. The meeting was devoted to discussion of the future of the commission as directed by the full commission meeting in December 2016.

Guided by the six items Sherri provided on the agenda, the following points were made:

- if it is determined that the commission is not to continue, we would have a formal vote at a full commission meeting where a quorum is present and send that record to the Freeholders.

- the idea of a fact-finding mission to get a list of Monmouth County organizations that would find the commission useful was a good one, but who would volunteer to do it?

- what would our defined mission be ? Would we act as a monitor or watchdog with formal information from the Prosecutor's Office and other groups, and anecdotal information ?

-if we are to continue, the concept of restructuring is acceptable but preferably without all of the by-laws drama of the past.

- perhaps 4 regular meetings in a year rather than the present 6, and a similar reduction in executive committee meetings. The idea was floated to have some meetings at our present location, and others at a specific chosen spot. What would constitute the core group?

- communication with the members and beyond. We do email and maintain a website. We could use the website as a community bulletin board for members to post if wanted.

- we know of no hotline intended as ours is - namely open to comment about possible bias/discrimination from any source, including law enforcement at all levels. The question is who would maintain it and how to publicize it beyond what we already do. There was distinct differing of opinion on the need for our hotline.

Additional points:

- we need to be more visible, we need more people willing to work, if we request info from the prosecutor what will we do with it and who will do it, from past experience, the commission is needed for monitoring incidents and tracking trends.

The following motion was proposed by Darryl Hughes, seconded by Jeff Schwartz:

The commission should continue for at least a year with the understanding that:

We reduce the number of meetings,

On a routine basis, data will be requested from the Prosecutor's Office,

We be more communicative with the Freeholders,

We decide on the validity of the hotline,

We attract individuals to commit to the work that needs to be done,

We stress education, building community, advocacy and monitoring.

The vote on the motion was 3 in favor and 3 opposed. This result will be carried to the full commission in February.

Submitted by Linda Zucaro