

BH TRHT Committee  
January 25, 2021  
7 PM

**Meeting Location:** Zoom call

**Members Present:**

Angie Devanney - Berkeley Heights Mayor  
Tiffany Escott - Berkeley Heights YMCA  
Vani Chitturi – Berkeley Heights Town Resident & incoming Vice Chair  
John DiPasquale – Berkeley Heights Police Chief  
Jason Massimino – Berkeley Heights Community Policing  
Stephen Yellin - Berkeley Heights Township Council  
Brandon Ramos – Berkeley Heights Town Resident  
Dennis Kim – Berkeley Heights Town Resident & incoming Secretary  
Kyle Brogden – Berkeley Heights Town Resident  
Alexis Jenkins – Berkeley Heights Town Resident & incoming Chair  
Ritika Sinha-Chaudhuri – Berkeley Heights Town Resident & Mayor Youth Council Rep  
Jeff Varnerin – BH Township Council  
Stephen Hopkins – BH School District Representative  
Joy Young – BH Board of Ed

**Apologies:**

Father Andy Prachar – Little Flower  
Tracy Procaccini – Berkeley Heights Town Resident

Angie opened meeting: 7:05pm

Introduced new members of BH TRHT Committee:

Joy Young – BH Board of Ed  
Jeff Varnerin – BH Township Council  
Stephen Hopkins – BH School District Representative

Angie called for Election of officers for 2021:

I. Reorg

Election of Officers for 2021:

- Chairperson
  - Stephen Yellin nominated Alexis Jenkins as chair and seconded by Brandon Ramos
- Vice Chairperson
  - Alexis Jenkins nominated Vani Chitturi and seconded by Stephen Yellin
- Secretary

- Stephen Yellin nominated Dennis Kim and seconded by Vani Chitturi

## II. Old Business

- Update from Danni Newberry on LGBTQ+ education platform

Angie gave summary on last meeting discussion w/ Danni;  
Update from Stephen – setup meeting w/ county superintendent and build comprehensive training and pending update from Danni

- Community Policing (Lt. Jason Massimino)
  - Update from the Annie Young Family

Lt. Massimino shared update on Community Policing program – currently designed as 8 week program post-Covid; revisit hosting into Zoom if into May 2021 – Goal to transparency – de-escalation training; community policing  
- Young family approved to call Annie Young Program – parents have background in law enforcement

- New BHPD Hire (Lt. Massimino/Chief DiPasquale)
  - Angie met w/ Community in South Orange and theme of “Be intentional” was highlighted. Scouting/recruiting of new candidates and looked to improve D&I w/in BHPD. Lt. Massimino and looking at 3 background screening phase. Highlighted diverse Highly Qualified pool – went to different county academies and chief websites to help w/ recruitment. PCT Certification required – Union County Police Academy. Very promising candidates from pool of 5.
- 2021 Goals (Kyle Brogden/Vani Chitturi)
  - Kyle reviewed 2 goals developed from subcommittee
  - Goal 2 – Community Connection – Community Bulletin Board – look to be partners w/ everyone – Ethnic Artsclapes – starting w/ African American culture and history
  - Mentoring – older and younger students – Ritika talked w/ creating playbook/curriculum to 1) establish community & participants & 2) build program as phase 2. Ritika to send out review of program
    - Reverse mentoring – student to mentor GenX and older members of the community
  - Joy asked about different mission statements; will send to new members;
  - Vani – do not want to be redundant; want to address gaps in activities and
  - Stephen Hopkins -need to vet mentoring w/ students through BOE – (\*\* need to follow up w/ BOE)
  - Stephen Yellin – clear measurable achievable goals; proactive and achievable goals and demonstrate w/ community the progress.

- Goal 1 – get input from community and how to measure and look to improve as flexible
- Send out goals and past document (Dennis/Angie) to be uploaded TRHT Sharepoint
- Cultural Events (Kyle Brogden & sub-committee)
- Diversity Training (Angie Devanney) - committee approved use of GIF diversity module; discussed summary and once post-covid – conduct formal training

### III. New Business

- Ordinance (Stephen Yellin)
  - Started to draft formal ordinance for TRHT Committee on Angie’s request – completed draft to committee and have TRHT committee to review. Stephen to share – work w/ AJ (BH IT Dept)
- Diversity & Inclusion Tab on website (Angie Devanney) – how to communicate w/ potential and new town residents on D&I programs/initiatives and other community groups (would like to add to 2021 goals; looking at photos and being intentional. Mostly agreement, Question on need to balance w/ D&I activities w/ Y (Tiffany) has tab and linking to BHDC; BH – need to establish point person on this and establish guardrails and provide linkage.
- Sustainable NJ Diversity on Boards & Committees
  - BH current silver status – activities and obtain points to improve BH status – Dennis & Angie to follow up w/ community
- Invite Community Coalition on Race to attend next meeting
  - Township invested – have them has guest speakers for first 30 minutes. Angie to schedule
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- Reports from Stakeholders
  - Township – more goals w/ 2021 w/ BHPD;
  - BOE – Stephen Hopkins – more diversity at GL;CMS & Elementary Schools – communicate and celebrate to celebrate; Trevor Noah book; Hate you give; UN – Human Rights declaration (use current events & mention w/ Mayor Youth Council); Privilege and Events Diwali and Jewish and LGBTQ club establish; Circulate
  - At District task force – end of Feb; Gender neutral bathrooms have been installed at GL
  - YMCA – on Social media; Website and virtual activities; collection of Art Supplies to VA; Black History month and Lunar New Year activities – on Y website and conducting Year End Review – DIG initiative and working w/ SAGA – June Pride month (zoom meeting – 2-3<sup>rd</sup> week Feb and connect w/ Tracey)

- Student/Youth – Ritika – mentorship and literary circles; What timelines and need to review w/ School administration – communicate w/ administration on Sunday vs Mentors; parent review/consent needed? Ritika to email Joy & Vani & Stephen H to have review and feedback to Thursday’s MYC meeting – 1) get admin approval 2) address
- Other – need to get D&I goals from each Stakeholders -

IV. Well wishes to Chief DiPasquale

V. BH TRHT will meet on 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 7pm monthly.

a. Next meeting scheduled for Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 7pm

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Who (Leads + Others)</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Status/Links/Attachments</b>
Receive update from Danni Newberry on LGBTQ+ training program	Stephen Yellin	TBC by Stephen & Danni	
Send out goals and mission statement to be uploaded TRHT Sharepoint vs attached in emails	Dennis Kim & Angie Devanney	ASAP	
Draft formal ordinance for TRHT Committee	Stephen Yellin	TBD	
Review Activities to improve BH status on Sustainable Jersey Certification ( <a href="http://www.sustainablejersey.com">www.sustainablejersey.com</a> )	Dennis Kim & Angie Devanney	TBD	
Diversity & Inclusion Tab on website development – need to further develop communication plan to current & potential town residents	Angie Devanney	TBD	
Invite South Orange Community Coalition on Race to attend future meeting as guest speaker	Angie Devanney	TBD	
Sharing of 2021 D&I goals from each Stakeholders	Stakeholders	TBC	
Close loop on review & approval from school district on mentoring program	Ritika w/ Joy, Vani & Stephen H	ASAP	