

Berkeley Heights (BH) TRHT Committee Meeting Minutes
Aug 17, 2020, 7 PM

Meeting Location: Zoom call

Members Present:

Angie Devanney - Berkeley Heights Mayor
John DiPasquale – Berkeley Heights Police Chief
Jeanne Kingsley - Berkeley Heights Township Council
Stephen Yellin - Berkeley Heights Township Council
Brandon Ramos – Berkeley Heights Town Resident & Committee Chair
Vani Chitturi – Berkeley Heights Town Resident
Dennis Kim – Berkeley Heights Town Resident & Committee Secretary
Tracy Procaccini – Berkeley Heights Town Resident
Tiffany Escott - Berkeley Heights YMCA
Jason Massimino – Berkeley Heights Community Policing

Apologies:

Father Andy Prachar – Little Flower
Alexis Jenkins – Berkeley Heights Town Resident & Committee Vice Chair
Christine Reilly - Berkeley Heights Board of Education (BOE)
Scott McKinney - Berkeley Heights Asst Superintendent of Schools

Introduction to any new attendees

-Brandon Ramos opened meeting and welcomed committee w/ Tracy Procaccini joining as a new member. Tracy is the SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Acceptance) club advisor at GL.

Review action items from last meeting

-Dennis Kim reviewed completed and outstanding items (Please see list below for updates) from the last meeting.
-Angie Devanney has set Sept 8th deadline for updating of resolution for TRHT committee.

Further development of Mission Statement and Goals

-Committee reviewed updated TRHT Mission Statement w/ Vani Chitturi & Steven Yellin leading discussion & updating document. Points were made on having emphasis on communication, inclusion of all groups while having TRHT Committee to centralize communication & awareness (perhaps through maintaining registry of groups & activities?) of all community lead groups. Discussed the additional of an 'Umbrella point' within the Goals of the Mission Statement – Committee to follow up w/ Steven on potential ideas for this. Discussion on the Methods section of documents and how best to define the creation and purpose of sub-committees (Please see attached draft) Stephen to receive and amend

comments and update Mission statement to committee. Once draft is finalized, plan is to share w/ BH Diversity council.

Review of new groups to connect/coordinate/communicate with:

Discuss the potential to reach out to your programs/groups to add to committee. List below is from emails and discussion

- Kyle Borgden - The Berkeley Heights Black Families for Change
- Emily Ramos - Allies for Racial Equity in Schools
- Ritika (SP?) – didn't catch last name - as high school representative
- Unfiltered - BH Alum interested in improving experience of BH student

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/News---Media-Website/BH-Unfiltered-113337400422347/>

Committee discuss the potential to have a 10-15-minute overview from various youth groups with goal to identify out TRHT committee could help; potential add to committee. Need to complete before 8th of Sept within next two weeks - Brandon to lead

Short Term goals:

- Township website – addition of TRHT Committee
- Diversity Training for Township employees

Angie Devanney discussed addition of TRHT Committee to BH Township website – To be followed up with Pam Yost(?) Could also post meeting Agenda and minutes as well as content discussed above. Dennis to follow up w/ new Sharepoint site that Angie sent out as document/central file storage for TRHT Committee.

Angie Devanney discussed potential to include diversity training for Township employees - JIF (Joint Insurance Fund) Insurance Company to lead training on D&I for elected officials - Angie to connect w/ Barbara (w/ HR)

John DiPasquale gave summary on de-escalation training - reduce in force/crisis training.

Jason Massimino developing inhouse program - use of force/defense tactics which would be a supplement w/ State Police program

There have been some Q&A sessions with Diversity Committee recently and the opportunity to produce a Q&A document based on questions/discussions that are had at these sessions.

Question: where to be shared?

Chief DiPasquale also summarized an update on policy w/ revised biased based policing - added LGTBQ+ section information. Can be shared from Chief DiPasquale.

Committee discussed to share and establish baseline data on recorded incidences, ie. collecting vehicle stop data. But questions were raised on how to share info? Website could be a possibility, but not certain how to share info; what is comfort level is and the level of detail that can be shared. Could be part of minutes & case by case basis. Also needs to be based/aligned on AG and ACLU.

No updates from Board of Education & Faith Community


YMCA Update: waiting for NJ Gov to open. Currently conducting revamp strategic plan of programs outside of the YMCA w/ planning around current Covid restrictions; finalizing staff training w/ new DIG (acronym?) program - Tiffany to share once finalized.

Long Term Goals:

1. Next Meeting, TBD, but needs to be held before **Sept 4th**

Angie Devanney discussed that 7pm seemed opened for everyone and that next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 17th, 2020. Angie Devanney closed meeting at 8:12pm.

Actions/Next Steps from Aug 17th, 2020 Meeting:

Actions	Who (Leads + Others)	Timing	Status/Links/Attachments
Update TRHT Committee Resolution	Angie Devanney	Sept 8 th	
Update and Finalize TRHT Committee Mission Statement and Goals	Stephen Yellin & Committee	ASAP	 TRHT Mission Statement.docx
Invite and schedule meeting to discuss w/ various potential youth groups to join TRHT committee	Brandon Ramos	ASAP	
Planning on additional of TRHT Committee to BH Township website	Angie Devanney/Pam Yost/Dennis Kim	TBD	
Development of TRHT Committee Sharepoint site	Dennis to plan and review w/ Committee	TBD	
Update on BH Police Q&A Sessions/Discussions w/ community	Chief DiPasquale	By email	
Updates on YMCA programs and DIG program	Tiffany Escott	By email	

Actions/Next Steps from July 20th, 2020 Meeting:

Actions	Who (Leads + Others)	Timing	Status/Links/Attachments
Send Nomination of additional TRHT Committee members representing LGBTQ+; Visible/non-Visible Disabilities & college age/18+ residents to Angie Devanney.	Committee	ASAP – to be closed on Sept 4 th , 2020.	
Explore potential to connect with other towns to discussion diversity/inclusion programs	Stephen Yellin	TBC – catch up from returns	
Share Eyes on the Prize YouTube channel/episode? That focuses on social issues/civil rights	Stephen Yellin		
Invite BH Diversity council to next & future TRHT Committee meetings & share minutes	Angie Devanney/Brandon Ramos	ASAP - update resolution by Sept 8 th	
Zoom call link to committee	Angie Devanney	By date established by Brandon/Angie	