

The REORGANIZATION meeting of the Human Relations Committee was held tonight, Public Information Officer Nancy K. Gibson presiding. Members present were John DiFerdinando, Herschel Elias, Myron Goldman and Commissioner Drew Sharkey.

1. Ms. Gibson opened the meeting and called for nominations for chair. Mr. Goldman nominated John DiFerdinando. There being no further nominations, upon motion of Commissioner Sharkey, and approved by committee, the nominations were closed and Mr. DiFerdinando was unanimously elected chair.

2. Mr. DiFerdinando called for nominations for vice chair. Mr. Goldman nominated Mr. Williams. Mr. Elias nominated himself. There being no further nominations, upon motion of Commissioner Sharkey, and approved by committee, the nominations were closed. By a vote of three to one, Mr. Williams was elected vice chair.

3. Upon motion of Mr. Goldman, and approved by committee, the minutes of the September 29, 2009, were accepted.

4. Regarding the status of the policy for private-organization use of Township-owned land, Commissioner Sharkey made a motion to table the discussion until all court proceedings on the same issue in a Philadelphia case were clearly resolved. He noted that the City of Philadelphia is facing significant costs as a result of the court proceedings, so it would be prudent for the Township to fully understand those ramifications before it proceeds. Under Robert's Rules of Order, no discussion is held for a motion to table. By a vote of three to one, the motion carried and the topic was tabled.

5. The committee discussed the possibility of becoming an ad hoc committee. Mr. DiFerdinando commented that the Boy Scout issue was the only topic the committee has discussed during his tenure and that is now largely a question for the courts. He also commented that the committee hasn't met in the last year due to a lack of an agenda. He favored the committee becoming ad hoc, thus having meetings on an as-needed basis. Mr. Elias preferred a regular meeting schedule

with cancellations in the absence of agenda topics. Mr. Goldman thought the committee should be considerate about the demand on Township Staff time. Mr. Elias asked if the committee's meeting times could be unofficially reserved. Ms. Gibson commented that as an ad hoc committee, the committee would not have to wait for those quarterly dates. A meeting could be scheduled whenever there was an appropriate agenda topic and enough members were available. Mr. Goldman called the question. By a vote of three to one, members voted to make the committee ad hoc.

6. Under *Old Business*, Mr. Elias discussed recent court decisions that favored the Boy Scouts and another regarding a Christian organization in a school setting that could potentially oppose the Boy Scouts. Mr. Elias complained that Boy Scout policy would admit some people he found objectionable and exclude others he considered heroic. Ms. Gibson reminded him that a Supreme Court decision has already established the Boy Scouts' right to set their own admission policy, so that was not an issue for consideration by the committee. Commissioner Sharkey reiterated his position that waiting for the final disposition of the Philadelphia court case was the most prudent course of action for the Township to avoid costly litigation. Mr. Elias wanted to establish a limit on the timeframe. Upon motion of Mr. DiFerdinando, and approved by committee, the committee will meet in September 2011 to review the matter again unless the Philadelphia issue is settled before then, warranting an earlier meeting.

7. Under *New Business*, Mr. Elias mentioned his concern about allegations of brutality among members of the Cheltenham police.

8. There being no further business, upon motion of Commissioner Sharkey, and approved by committee, the meeting was adjourned.



David G. Kravnik
Township Manager

Per Nancy K. Gibson
Public Information Officer