

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE** for January 2021 was held tonight via web-conference, Commissioner Ann L. Rappoport presiding. Present were Commissioners Brockington, Pransky, Areman, Holland, and Zygmund-Felt. Also present was Ex-Officio Member Norris.

Staff present via web-conference were: Robert A. Zienkowski, Township Manager; Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager; Brian Hinson, Director of Parks and Recreation; and Joseph Bagley, Esq., Township Solicitor.

Ms. Rappoport called the meeting to order at 9:36 p.m.

1. The Committee reviewed the following reports for the month of December 2020:

- a. Property Maintenance Supervisor
- b. Public Information Officer
- c. Director of Parks and Recreation
- d. Director of Community Centers
- e. Facilities Event Coordinator

Ms. Rappoport asked for an update on the heating system at Glenside Library. Mr. Zienkowski said a part needed to be ordered and he does not yet have a date on when it will be delivered.

Upon motion of Mr. Pransky, the Committee unanimously received the monthly reports as stated above.

2. Receipt of Committee Meeting Minutes:

- a. Historical Commission – December 10, 2020
- b. Twinning Committee – No December Meeting
- c. Economic Development Task Force Meeting – No December Meeting
- d. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee Meeting – December 17, 2020
- e. Human Relations Committee Meeting – December 3, 2020

Upon motion of Mr. Pransky, the Committee unanimously received the meeting minutes as stated above.

3. Receipt of Staff Meeting Minutes – November 2, 2020; December 2, 2020; December 9, 2020; and December 16, 2020

Upon motion of Mr. Pransky, the Committee unanimously received the staff meeting minutes as stated above.

4. Report of the Township Manager – None.

5. New Business

- a. **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. Holland, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners present a proclamation to Ms. Arlita Abdur Rahim, a graduate of Cheltenham School District, upon her retirement after more than 41 years with the Cheltenham School District at the January 20, 2021, Board of Commissioners meeting.

Mr. Holland said this is an unusual accomplishment and that all three of his children went to Glenside Elementary where Ms. Abdur Rahim spent a majority of her career, and benefitted from her tutelage.

- b. Ms. Rappoport said there is an arduous process to receive a National Marker or National Register status for historical sites. She suggested the Township consider developing its own Local Marker program which could help enhance economic development opportunities from tourism to improving property values.

Mr. Bagley asked the Historical Commission to pay attention to where the sign might be located, whether it is on private property or in a right-of-way.

**Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously agreed to task the Historical Commission with developing a local historic marker program.

6. Old Business

- a. Mr. Brockington said he received calls from some residents whose electricity was cut off in the middle of the day without notice. He wanted PECO to give residents proper advance notice that power would be out for several hours while residents are working and attending school from home. Mr. Zienkowski said he has already notified PECO.

7. Announcements

- a. Mr. Areman thanked residents for their masked photo submissions. The Mask Mosaic has been posted on the Township's website and social media. He thanked Ms. Cartlidge for her idea and work on this project. He reminded residents of the importance of continuing to be diligent in wearing their masks, maintaining safe distance, and other protocols during the pandemic.
- b. Mr. Areman said Monday is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, which is noted as a day of service. He noted there are a number of socially-distanced service projects going on throughout the Township. He recommended visiting <http://mlkdayofservice.org>, which lists opportunities for service projects.
- c. Mr. Pransky asked if any Township services will be closed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Mr. Zienkowski said the Township Building, Public Works Facilities, and Libraries will be closed on Monday. In addition, Refuse and Recycling Collections will be pushed back one day.

8. Citizens' Forum

9. There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Pransky, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.



Robert Zienkowski  
Township Manager

Per Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager