

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

Staff present via web-conference were: Robert A. Zienkowski, Township Manager; Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager; Danielle Pearson, Assistant Director of Fiscal Affairs; Allen Brown, Property Maintenance Supervisor; Lauren Walter, Special Projects Coordinator; and Brian Hinson, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Rappoport called the meeting to order at 8:38 p.m.

1. The Committee reviewed the following reports for the month of November 2021:
 - a. Property Maintenance Supervisor
 - b. Public Information Officer
 - c. Director of Parks and Recreation

Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously received the above reports.

2. Receipt of Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - a. Historical Commission – November 18, 2021
 - b. Twinning Committee – No November Meeting
 - c. Economic Development Task Force Meeting – November 16, 2021
 - d. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee Meeting – No November Meeting
 - e. Civil Rights Task Force Meeting – November 9, 2021

Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Committee Meeting Minutes above.

3. Receipt of Staff Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2021

Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously received the staff meeting minutes as stated above.

4. New Business- None.

5. Old Business

- a. Update on the Phase I Website Upgrade. Ms. Walter explained that this phase is an ADA compliant upgrade that improves mobile access to the site, since over half of the Township's website users are accessing it via mobile device. Aside from improving ADA compliance, this phase will improve the overall appearance of the existing website, but the site map, content, and navigation will not change at all. The new look should be live approximately three weeks after approval. Next, the company will move forward with a survey for public input and the longer process of improving the site map and content on the site.

Ms. Walter explained that Municipal One will follow Website Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) to bring the website to ADA compliance in design (such as colors contrasts) and through the back end of the site to ensure that screen readers can read content.

Public Comment

Rhonda Isser – said the search engine is terrible and would like to see it improved. Ms. Walter said she believes the phase 1 accessibility upgrade will hopefully help optimize the search on the site, but that these comments will be taken into further consideration for phase 2 of the upgrade.

Edie Cerebi – agreed with Ms. Isser that the search engine is terrible. She said the PDFs for minutes and agendas are not searchable.

Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Areman, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners authorize staff to move forward with implementing Phase I of the Township's website upgrade.

6. Announcements
 - a. Mr. Zygmund-Felt acknowledged the passing of Gordon Lawrence, former Commissioner of the 6th Ward, who served the Township for 26 years.
 - b. Mr. Areman acknowledged the passing of Marilou Cassidy, Glenside resident, who taught dance to generations of Glenside residents.
 - c. Mr. Areman congratulated Mary Kay Moran on her appointment as the new Director of the Cheltenham Township Library System.
 - d. Mr. Areman announced that Santa will be escorted around Glenside neighborhoods by the Glenside Fire Company this Saturday.
 - e. Ms. Rappoport announced that guided tours of the new Community Supported Agriculture program at Elkins Estate will be held this Saturday at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.
7. Citizens' Forum – None.
8. There being no further business, upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m.



Robert Zienkowski
Township Manager

Per Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager