

MONMOUTH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
June 1, 2009 – 2:30 – 3:30 PM

MINUTES

Attendance: Julius D. Ramsey, Janice Sweeney, David Cohen, Diane Schwartz, Carolyn Schwebel, Dave D'amico, Carles D. Brown III, Keith Rella, Kathryn Guadagno, Philip Smith, John Schwebel, Earl Teasley, Luis A. Valentin, Linda Zucaro

The meeting was called to order at 2:43 PM and the salute to the Flag followed.

It was reiterated that this meeting was called for one purpose only – to continue the discussion on the exchange of letters with Brookdale CC.

Earl presented an overview of the subject including the fact that, at the previous Executive Committee meeting, a motion was made by Diane Schwartz which was subsequently tabled to be discussed at this meeting. He stated that as Diane is not a voting member of the Executive Committee, a new motion and second would be needed. There followed some discussion and clarification as to who is a member of the Executive Committee and it was determined that there were eight EC members attending at this time, and one in the Chair.

Janice Sweeney was recognized and declined to make a motion but suggested that we need to give careful consideration to reviewing the By-laws and possibly revising them. An alternative would be to prepare a written procedures manual.

Carolyn Schwebel moved (second by Phil Smith) that we frame a response to the Brookdale letter from Mr. Birdsall. The following points were made in the discussion on this motion:

- 1- the possibility of conflict of interest on the part of several members with regard to Brookdale,
- 2- Charles Brown, our current liaison with the Department of Human Services, supported reexamining the By-laws to clarify procedures, especially with regard to communications coming from the Commission. There was some discussion of the relationship between the Commission and the Board of Freeholders and several members, notably Jan Sweeney and Dave Cohen, stressed the independence of the Commission from its inception.

3- As an alternative, for letters sent from the Commission, it was suggested that the Chair have permission of the three other elected officers before a letter is sent.

4- Keith Rella, assistant to Freeholder Amy Mallett, said that Freeholder Mallett had no interest in politicizing the Commission but was concerned that members appeared to be confused as to the course of action when communications from the Commission were issued.

Finally the vote was taken on the motion with six in favor, one opposed and no abstentions.

Diane Schwartz then suggested that the letter to Brookdale include an invitation to discuss the matter further rather than exacerbating any tension that has developed. There was general consensus on that point.

Earl asked Carolyn Schwebel to lead the effort to craft a response.

As it was now 3:31 PM, the EC meeting was adjourned in favor of the full Commission meeting which followed.

Submitted by Linda Zucaro, Acting Secretary  
Corrections and Revised Minutes Submitted by Sherri West, Secretary