

**Minutes September 15, 2020**  
Upper Merion Township Historical Commission

Date: **Tuesday, 9/15/20 at 6:30 PM** (Virtual Meeting)

Present: Greg Philips, Dave Montalvo, Tina Smith, Matt McCaffery, Pat Jordan, Eileen Council,  
Bill Del Collo, Kenn Brown

Regrets: Sara Seipel

Meeting began: 6:45 PM

Minutes from January approved

Discussion about the joint project of the Historical Commission with the MLK Jr. Committee to collect oral histories from African American community from Rebel Hill continued from previous meetings in July (no meeting in August due to lack of quorum) and the 9/2/20 joint meeting of the UMT HC and MLK Jr. Committee.

--Dave Montalvo clarified the various efforts ensuring inclusion of diverse communities with the Upper Merion School District. Noted were the Diversity task force, Equity task force as well as the MLK Jr. Committee.

--The next joint meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2020 and the next MLK Jr. Committee meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2020.

--Training resources were discussed for the persons conducting the interviews.

--Dave Montalvo said he would reach out to the Upper Merion High School Black Student Union to see if the oral history project would be considered as an activity.

--HC members discussed the importance of having students involved in the history of our area, in history in general.

--Eileen Council commented that especially with the BLM movement, there is a hesitancy to trust written history, and that getting students involved.

--The discussion concluded with agreement that the members of the HC would write their understanding of the goal of this joint project so that the HC would be able to continue this project with greater understanding of the project's mission.

Dave Montalvo asked if there were any updates on the approved funding for the structural survey for the Moore-Irwin House. The HC supported the efforts of the ECDC in applying for the grant money.

--BOS liaison said he would look into the status of the use of the grant money and get back to the members of the HC.

Tina Smith asked if she and Matt McCaffery could ask for help from the township manager to have the required UMT Staff person assigned to the HC.

--BOS liaison concurred with this effort.



Matthew P. McCaffery  
Chairperson

Meeting adjourned 7:45 PM