

Resolutions

The Gladwyne Civic unanimously passed this resolution on April 1, 2009 to encourage open meetings in Lower Merion Township and adhering to the Sunshine Law.

WHEREAS, public participation, public scrutiny, open meetings and government transparency are essential to our representative democracy; and

WHEREAS, the legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has stated: “the right of the public to be present at all meetings...is vital to the enhancement and proper functioning of the democratic process and that secrecy in public affairs undermines the faith of the public in government and the public's effectiveness in fulfilling its role in a democratic society”; and

WHEREAS, Lower Merion Township Commissioners are holding closed meetings, including but not limited to, Ad Hoc Budget Committee meetings and Ad Hoc Capital Improvement Plan Committee meetings; and

WHEREAS, Lower Merion Township Commissioners meet regularly to “receive reports from staff” which information would be helpful to the public as well; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners’ solicitor has stated that certain meetings are not required to be public, but that the Board may choose to make those meetings public in their discretion;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Gladwyne Civic Association hereby resolves: Whether or not they may legally keep such meetings closed to the public, we respectfully call upon the Lower Merion Commissioners to open all of their meetings (Board, Committee, Ad Hoc, staff reports) to the public, except when their discussions involve issues meant to be exempted from the Sunshine Law (employment or termination of a specific individual; collective bargaining negotiations; purchase or lease of real estate; litigation).

RESOLVED, this First day of April, 2009, by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS of GLADWYNE CIVIC ASSOCIATION.