

**Orange County Human Relations Commission
Minutes
Monday, April 8, 2013
Orange County Animal Services Building Conference Room**

M E M B E R S P R E S E N T			STAFF
Colin Austin	Li-Chen Chin		James Davis
Cynthia Stubbs	Christine Kelly-Kleese		
Matthew Hughes	Lori Schweickert		
Robert Ireland	Joyce Preslar		
G U E S T S			

Absent: Joe Polich Annette Uhlenberg, Gerald Ponder, Rollin Russell and Preston Scott Phillips

I. Call To Order

Chair Colin Austin called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

II. Introductions

The absences of Gerald Ponder and Rollin Russell were excused. Li-Chen introduced herself.

III. Minutes

Robert moved to accept the minutes from the March 11, 2013 meeting. Li-Chen seconded the motion. No objections.

IV. Follow-up on Collateral Consequences Presentation

James informed the members that the governments of Orange County, Town of Hillsborough, Town of Carrboro and Town of Chapel Hill have enacted a “Ban the Box” on their preliminary job applications by removing questions related to prior felony convictions. This ban was in response to the petitions of the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness (OCPEH). The members discussed the ramifications of this action and whether the private sector should also ban the box on their preliminary job applications.

V. County Updates

Robert and Joyce attended the Fair Housing Workshop on Saturday, April 6, 2013. It was recommended that additional effort should be exerted to attract residents to attend such events. James reported that the Fair Housing Workshop was presented by Justice United.

VI. Subcommittee Updates

Executive Committee:

Colin announced that Matthew Prentice resigned from the board effective April 1, 2013. It was also presented that the office of secretary was vacant. James will send the responsibilities of the office of secretary to all members.

Building Integrated Communities:

The subcommittee would like to invite someone from El Centro Hispano – Carrboro to speak at an upcoming meeting and provide a community update. The subcommittee members stated that it is their goal to make a connection with the array of diverse communities in Orange County.

Emancipation Proclamation:

James informed the members that the subcommittee is planning a bus trip to the NC Museum of History to view the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. The members discussed whether there would be a logistical issue with expending the budget to attend the museum. It was recommended that school students are presented with the opportunity to attend which would coincide with the end of the school year. The trip is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 8, 2013. The Orange County and Chapel Hill/Carrboro school year ends on Friday, June 7, 2013.

Tenants' Bill of Rights:

Copies of the drafted Tenants' Bill of Rights were distributed to the members. The members discussed whether the HRC should be acknowledged as contributors to the document. It was recommended that the HRC remain a silent contributor and allow Justice United and EmPowerment to be the voice of the document. There is a Fair Housing Workshop scheduled for Saturday, May 18, 2013. The subcommittee expects to receive feedback on the draft bill of rights at this workshop. The final draft will be completed after all feedback is considered. The role of the HRC will be to present the final draft to the BOCC for action. Members suggested that the final version be translated in Spanish and Karen. It was discussed whether the final draft will be distributed as pamphlets or posted on a public blog.

Collateral Consequences:

The members considered that the Ban the Box issue was resolved with regard to initial job applications for the local governmental agencies in Orange County and discussed whether there were other issues for this subcommittee to address. It was presented that a law requiring criminal background checks of welfare recipients was to be enacted. It was recommended that any issue that this subcommittee addresses should relate to the Social Justice Goal.

VII. Other Business/Announcements:

James informed the members that the Chapel Hill NAACP has invited HRC to send a member to attend their Juneteenth event planning meetings. The members were informed of the Fair Housing Month events planned on Saturday, April 20 and Saturday, April 27, 2013.

VIII. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

James E. Davis, Jr.
Civil Rights Specialist