

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

6:30 PM

August 08, 2011

Animal Services Complex

MEMBERS PRESENT			STAFF
Colin Austin	Lori Lumpkin	Shannon Jackson	Tara Fikes
Christine Kelly-Kleese	Preston Scott Phillips	Lori Schweickert	James Spivey
Richard Perry	James Anderson	Matthew Hughes	
Jack Vogt			

NOTE: Bryant Colson, Rita Anita Linger, Annette Uhlenberg, and Barbara Marotto informed staff that they were unable to attend this meeting.

I. MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION WAS MADE BY JACK VOGT AND SECONDED BY RICHARD PERRY TO ACCEPT THE JUNE 13, 2011 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. VOTE: AYES 9 (Anderson, Austin, Hughes, Jackson, Kelly-Kleese, Lumpkin, Perry, Phillips, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 4 (Colson, Marotto, Linger, Uhlenberg); ABSENT 1 (Rosenbluth).

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. HUMAN RELATIONS MONTH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Jack Vogt reported that the subcommittee membership submitted approximately nine (9) topics for consideration. Mr. Vogt explained that several of the topics were discarded and the subcommittee decided to consider amending the Civil Rights Ordinance to include sexual orientation and sexual identity as protected classes; update/status report from local agencies that focus on women's issues; budget cuts and their impacts on local governments/education; and health care issues.

The subcommittee will refine one of these topics for consideration by the full membership.

B. PAULI MURRAY AWARDS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Lori Schweickert reported that the subcommittee had not met. Ms. Schweickert suggested that the publicity campaign for the event begin as soon as possible.

Staff agreed to electronically transmit the application information to the subcommittee.

C. STUDENT ESSAY AWARDS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Richard Perry explained that not much progress had been made due to the summer break for teachers and families. Mr. Perry explained that some consideration had been given to converting a specific social justice goal into a prompt format. He stated that this is the general format that is implemented by the school system when giving homework assignments.

Mr. Perry suggested, in an effort to move expeditiously, that the subcommittee decide on a specific topic; once decided upon, the specific topic be forwarded to staff; staff forward the specific topic to the full membership; and the full membership would electronically decide on a specific topic. Once the official electronic decision is made, staff will forward the information to the various school contacts.

D. ADVOCACY/OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Colin Austin will contact Marty Rosenbluth regarding the responsibilities of the Advocacy/Outreach Subcommittee.

E. BUILDING INTEGRATED COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE REPORT

There was discussion regarding the status of the building integrated communities (BIC) initiative. Concern was voiced by the HRC subcommittee regarding the seemingly academic approach to the initiative; the lack of engagement by the immigrant communities; the data collection process; issues of distrust; a perceived defensive stance of the SOG staff; and the desire not to proceed if issues of distrust and the lack of input from the immigrant communities are not addressed. The HRC subcommittee to the BIC group assured the membership that their concerns would be relayed to the BIC group.

The next scheduled meeting of the BIC group is Tuesday, August 09, 2011.

F. HOUSING NEEDS OF RESIDENTS WITH SPMI, INCLUDING AUTISM

Tara Fikes informed the membership that a meeting with Judy Truitt, Executive Director of Orange Person Chatham Mental Health, regarding this matter. Ms. Fikes explained that Ms. Truitt was quite receptive to researching the questions submitted by Lori Schweickert. It was relayed that Mr. Truitt stated that the questions appear simplistic but the responses are somewhat complicated. Additionally, Ms. Truitt welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the HRC regarding this matter.

It was suggested and agreed that an invitation be extended to Ms. Truitt to attend the October or November HRC meeting to discuss this matter.

G. \$75,000 CDBG FUNDS FOR ROGERS ROAD COMMUNITY

Tara Fikes explained that the CDBG funds would be used to facilitate that infrastructure hook-up to public water and sewer. Ms. Fikes stated that eight or nine houses in the community met the criteria for the water and sewer connections. Ms. Fikes specified that 4 of the houses would have water connections and five houses would have water and sewer connections.

Ms. Fikes stated that a contract had been signed with vendor to perform the specified work and that within the next month or six weeks the work should be completed.

It was suggested and agreed upon that an invitation be extended to Rev. Robert Campbell to attend the October 10, 2011 HRC meeting.

III. AMENDING THE ORANGE COUNTY CIVIL RIGHTS ORDINANCE

The matter was referred from the June 13, 2011 to this meeting for consideration. Annette Moore, Staff Attorney, accepted an invitation to attend this meeting to lead the discussion regarding this matter. Due to schedule conflict, Ms. Moore was unable to attend this matter.

This matter was referred for consideration at the September 12, 2011 HRC meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. STATUS REPORT: HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION IN NORTH CAROLINA

There was review of the news articles regarding the Durham City and Chatham County human relations commissions.

Shannon Jackson will contact a Durham elected official regarding this matter.

Colin Austin requested that staff provide him with contact information for the chairs of the Durham Human Relations Commission and the Chatham County Human Relations Commission. Mr. Austin will contact the chairs to engage in discussion regarding the status of human relations commissions in North Carolina.

B. RE-APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

James Spivey informed the membership that all members whose terms ended on June 30, 2011 have been submitted for re-appointment by the BOCC. The re-appointments are scheduled to be considered during the August 23, 2011 BOCC meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was . . .

ADJOURNED!!!