

# HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

## MINUTES

6:30 PM

December 12, 2011

Animal Services Complex

MEMBERS PRESENT			STAFF
Colin Austin	Shannon Jackson	Matthew Hughes	James Spivey
Christine Kelly-Kleese	Lori Lumpkin	Barbara Marotto	
Michael Stewart	Bryant Colson	Joyce Preslar	
Cynthia Stubbs	Richard Perry	Annette Uhlenberg	GUEST
Jack Vogt	Lori Schweickert	Joseph Polich	Ashley Tittlemore

**NOTE:** *James Anderson, Marty Rosenbluth, Rita Anita Linger Preston Scott Phillips, and Rollin Russell informed staff that they were unable to attend this meeting.*

### I. MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION WAS MADE BY JACK VOGT AND SECONDED BY BRYANT COLSON TO ACCEPT THE NOVEMBER 21, 2011 MINUTES WITH NOTED CHANGE TO THE MOTION REGARDING THE ADVOCACY/OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE. VOTE: AYES 15 (Austin, Colson, Hughes, Jackson, Kelly-Kleese, Lumpkin, Marotto, Perry, Polich, Preslar, Schweickert, Stewart, Stubbs, Uhlenberg, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 5 (Anderson, Linger, Phillips, Rosenbluth, Russell).

### II. PAULI MURRAY AWARDS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Lori Schweickert explained that the submission deadline date for business nominations had been extended until December 23, 2011. (*James Spivey explained that due to the office being closed for the holidays, the advertised deadline date was December 22, 2011.*) Ms. Schweickert further explained that percussionist Diali Keba Cissokho and the Sacrificial Poets had agreed to provide entertainment during the ceremony. Diali Keba Cissokho is to be provided a stipend of \$250 and the Sacrificial Poets are to receive a \$100 stipend.

Ms. Schweickert stated that the subcommittee would convene after the extended deadline date for business nominations to review the nominations for the 2011 Pauli Murray Awards. The Subcommittee's recommendations will be presented to the full membership at the January 09, 2012 HRC meeting.

### III. HUMAN RELATIONS MONTH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Jack Vogt provided the subcommittee's status report. Mr. Vogt explained that very aggressive efforts (contacting John Hood of the Locke Foundation; contacting the Office of the Speaker (Thom Tillis) of the NC House of Representatives; contacting the NC Family Policy Council; leaving voice messages for Tammy Fitzgerald) to secure a panelist that is a proponent of the proposed Amendment 1 have been unsuccessful thusfar. He explained that efforts would continue to secure a proponent of the proposed amendment.

Mr. Vogt stated that Professor Maxine Eichner (UNC Law School Professor); Brett Webb Mitchell (Associate Professor at NC Central University, author, gay parent); Stuart Campbell (Executive Director, Equality NC); and Alyson Grine (lesbian couple with children) have voiced interest and are available to serve on the panel. Milan Pham (attorney in private practice and former Director of the Orange County Department of Human Rights & Relations) agreed to serve a moderator and to discuss the Civil Rights Ordinance.

Mr. Vogt presented a possible title for the Kick-Off which was a work in progress. The title will be reviewed by the subcommittee for final draft.

The following persons were suggested to be contacted in the continued efforts to secure a panelist who is a proponent of the proposed Amendment 1: Art Pope, Dale Folwell, Skip Stam, Senator Ellie Kinnaird, and Stuart Campbell.

Joyce Preslar informed the membership that The Moaners (Laura King & Melissa Swingle) and local high school marching band had been contacted to provide entertainment during the Kick-Off. Ms. Preslar relayed that the marching band felt their performance would be too loud for an enclosed venue. She stated that The Moaners voiced interest and had questions regarding the public announcement (PA) system and the availability of a stipend.

It was explained that during previous Kick-Off events at the Century Center, the Century Center's PA System was used. It was consensus to offer a stipend of \$150 to The Moaners to provide entertainment during the Kick-Off.

James Spivey reminded the membership that the Kick-Off is schedule just a little over a month and publicity of the event is critical.

It was consensus that a generic ad could be run in the local newspapers that does not reference panelists by name – allowing time for a proponent to be found – but announces the other specifics about the Kick-Off, i.e., place, time, date, entertainment. After a final attempt to secure a proponent of the proposed Amendment 1, a more specific publicity blitz will be implemented regarding the Kick-Off event.

#### **IV. STUDENT ESSAY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

Richard Perry stated that the deadline for the contest is in January and thus the subcommittee has not met. Mr. Perry did explain that in order for the monetary awards to be given out to the essay contest winners, donations were solicited from the members. The total amount needed was \$350. All donations are to be given to James Spivey.

James Spivey stated that he would inform the membership of the tally as donations are received.

**V. BUILDING INTEGRATED COMMUNITIES WORK GROUP REPORT**

Colin Austin explained that the BIC Work Group's next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 28, 2012. Mr. Austin explained that this meeting will focus on an overview of County government and discuss the formation of an immigrant work group that will work with the HRC. It is anticipated that the immigrant work group will collaborate with the HRC regarding concerns of the immigrant community. This collaborative effort will provide opportunity for concerns of the immigrant community to be communicated directly to the BOCC.

**VI. EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION ANNIVERSARY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Barbara Marotto explained that the subcommittee had not met but a meeting will be convened in mid-January 2012.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A.....APPOINTMENT RECOMMENDATION.**

MOTION WAS MADE BY BRYANT COLSON AND SECONDED BY SHANNON JACKSON THAT THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPOINTS ASHLEY TITTEMORE TO THE ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION.

VOTE: AYES 15 (Austin, Colson, Hughes, Jackson, Kelly-Kleese, Lumpkin, Marotto, Perry, Polich, Preslar, Schweickert, Stewart, Stubbs, Uhlenberg, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 5 (Anderson, Linger, Phillips, Rosenbluth, Russell).

**B.....CALENDAR PICTURE**

Richard Perry inquired about taking a picture for the Department calendar as was done last year.

James Spivey stated that he would make inquiry and suggested that the members come to the January 2012 meeting prepared to be photographed.

**C.....HRC PRESENCE AT BOCC MEETINGS**

There was discussion regarding the possibility of having an HRC presence at all BOCC meetings.

This matter was tabled and will be an agenda item for a future HRC meeting.

**D.....RECOMMENDATION -VS- RESOLUTION REGARDING CIVIL RIGHTS ORDINANCE**

James Spivey explained that the HRC's October 10, 2011 recommendation to the BOCC to amend the Civil Rights Ordinance to include *sexual orientation* and *sexual identity* as

protected classes was a recommendation as opposed to a resolution. Mr. Spivey distinguished a recommendation and a resolution.

Questions focused mainly on whether or not the recommendation or a resolution would be forwarded directly to the BOCC. The membership voiced concern as to whether an HRC-adopted recommendation or resolution is forwarded directly to the BOCC, the governing body.

Mr. Spivey explained that the HRC is advisory to the BOCC. He further stated that any HRC recommendation (a request for action by the governing body) or resolution (action taken authorized by the governing body) would be directed to the BOCC (the governing body).

MICHAEL STEWART MOVED AND JACK VOGT SECONDED THAT THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION IS SATISFIED WITH FORWARDING TO THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THE OCTOBER 10, 2011 RECOMMENDATION TO AMEND THE CIVIL RIGHTS ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE *SEXUAL ORIENTATION* AND *SEXUAL IDENTITY* AS PROTECTED CLASSES. VOTE: AYES 15 (Austin, Colson, Hughes, Jackson, Kelly-Kleese, Lumpkin, Marotto, Perry, Polich, Preslar, Schweickert, Stewart, Stubbs, Uhlenberg, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 5 (Anderson, Linger, Phillips, Rosenbluth, Russell).

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

***a d j o u r n e d!***