



Orange County Human Relations Commission
Minutes
Monday, December 9, 2013
Orange County Animal Services Building Conference Room

M E M B E R S P R E S E N T			STAFF
Natalie Turner	Gerald Ponder	Rollin Russell	James Davis
Monica Richard	Christine Kelly-Kleese	Joyce Preslar	
Robert Ireland			
G U E S T S			

Absent: Li-Chen Chin, Preston Scott Phillips, Marc Xavier, Joe Polich, Matthew Hughes, Cynthia Stubbs and Jamie Paulen

I. Call To Order

Chair Christine Kelly-Kleese called the meeting to order at 6:52 p.m. There being no quorum, issues were not voted upon.

II. Introductions

Christine announced that Dominika Baran and Doris Brunson were appointed to the HRC through official action of the Board of County Commissioners on November 19, 2013.

III. Minutes

Members reviewed the minutes and made recommendations for amendments.

IV. County Updates

Members attended the BOCC meeting on Monday, December 2, 2013. Christine presented the proclamation signed by the BOCC acknowledging December 10, 2013 as Human Rights Day, December 15, 2013 as Bill of Rights Day and December 10 – 16, 2013 as Human Rights Week. Commissioner Price requested the HRC to consider making proclamations that acknowledge amendments to the U.S. Constitution that were ratified after the Bill of Rights. The BOCC endorsed the Declaration of Tenants' Rights and Obligations drafted by the HRC, Orange County Justice United, EmPOWERment, and the UNC School of Law's Legal Assistance Clinic.

Other matters of interest to the HRC include the BOCC's recommendation to the Department of Social Services to implement an anti-poverty action plan. Members stated that such an action plan should involve the HRC.

V. Subcommittee Updates

Executive Committee:

It was reported that the two (2) vacancies on the board could be filled only by appointment by the Town of Chapel Hill and the Town of Carrboro, respectively. It was suggested that one of the at-large members residing within the Town of Chapel Hill request the Town for appointment. The vacated at-large seat would then be occupied by a current applicant. James will discover whether this could be arranged.

Building Integrated Communities:

No Report

Diversity Matters:

It was reported that the 2014 Human Relations Month Forum participants have been confirmed. Panelists will include John Blackfeather Jeffries, a former student at North Carolina A&T, Civil Rights Attorney Al McSurely and NC State Senator Valerie Foushee. Professor Gene Nichol will moderate the event and entertainment will be provided by Lynn McGee and the Monarchs. Free Spirit Freedom will have a visual display at the Forum. The theme of the Forum is *Equal Justice Under The Law: Are We There Yet – A Reflection on the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act*. The Forum will be hosted at the Carrboro Century Center on Sunday, January 26, 2014 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The subcommittee will meet on December 18, 2013 to draft the order of the program. The subcommittee further reported that the planning for the 2014 Community Read is progressing. The Orange County Public Library ordered additional copies of the selected book, *My Black Family, My White Privilege . . .* by Michael Wenger. The subcommittee is making arrangements for Mr. Wenger to be present to facilitate the Community Read which will be scheduled for March, 2014. The subcommittee is also planning an opportunity for middle or high school students to perform the play written by Joyce. The play is an adaptation of the literary works of former slave George Moses Horton. James will send a copy of the play to all HRC members.

Tenants' Bill of Rights:

No Report.

Pauli Murray Awards:

There are two (2) business nominees, five (5) individual nominees and six (6) youth nominees. The subcommittee will submit its recommendation for each category to the Executive Committee on Friday, December 20, 2013. The awards ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, February 23, 2014 at the Central Orange Senior Center from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The subcommittee is considering a local youth group to provide entertainment at the program.

Essay Contest:

It was reported that there are currently no essays submitted. The deadline for submitting essays is 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2013. The members discussed how to encourage teachers to get their students involved in the essay contest. James will send all essay submissions electronically to the subcommittee who will provide recommendations for the winners on Monday, January 13, 2014.

Poster Contest

There were three (3) posters submitted. The subcommittee judged the posters and reached a consensus for the first, second and third place winners. It was recommended that the Department of Housing, Human Rights and Community Development consider using all three entries in its calendar for Fair Housing Month. It was also suggested that the posters be displayed at the Human Relations Forum in January, 2014, the Pauli Murray Awards ceremony in February, 2014, and at the Orange County Library in Hillsborough throughout the month of March, 2014. The members discussed how to encourage student involvement, and will consider sending future contest notices directly to art teachers, school boards and school superintendents.

Collateral Consequences:

The subcommittee will review the programs in Wake and Durham Counties that address the issue of employment opportunities for ex-felony offenders and determine whether their services extend to Orange County. The subcommittee will also consider drafting a resources guide containing a list of services available for ex-felony offenders.

VI. Annual Report/Work Plan

The members reviewed the 2013 Annual Report/Work Plan and discussed how to complete the goals for 2014.

VII. Other Business/Announcements

James will devise a calendar of scheduled HRC events. Members discussed whether the anti-poverty plan for DSS would benefit from the implementation of the Social Justice Impact Review Tool. James will provide a copy of the Social Justice Goal and accompanying Impact Review Tool to the members. New member orientation will be scheduled for Monday, March 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

James E. Davis, Jr.,
Civil Rights Specialist