

Orange County Human Relations Commission Minutes

Monday, February 11, 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	Gerald Ponder	Cynthia Stubbs	James Davis
Lori Schweickert	Christine Kelly-Kleese	Joyce Preslar	
Matthew Hughes	Rollin Russell		
Robert Ireland	Preston Scott Phillips		
G U E S T S			
Natalie Wu			
<i>Absent: Shannon Jackson, Matthew Prentice, Li-Chen Chin, Annette Uhlenberg and Joe Polich</i>			

I. Call To Order

Chair Colin Austin called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

II. Introductions

There were no introductions. Colin informed the members that Tiki Windley resigned from the board effective January 15, 2013.

III. Minutes

Matthew Hughes moved to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2013 meeting. Gerald Ponder seconded the motion. No objections. There was discussion whether the members preferred to receive future meeting minutes via email. James will send an email to all members asking to confirm this preference. There was also discussion whether the agenda and minutes could be projected on the wall or on a screen.

IV. County Updates

Joyce, Joseph and Rollin attended the BOCC meeting on January 24, 2013 wherein the County Commissioners presented a proclamation acknowledging February 2013 as Human Relations Month. Joseph read the proclamation aloud and Rollin made a presentation promoting the events of the HRC. Colin asked the members to review the BOCC meeting calendar and sign up to attend future meetings.

V. Pauli Murray Awards Ceremony Updates

Christine reminded the members that the Pauli Murray Awards ceremony will be held on Sunday, February 24, 2013. Colin will do the welcome, present the Pauli Murray Award recipients and serve as emcee. There will be no 2012 business award recipient. Christine will present the student essay winners. Rollin made a motion to accept the scores of the essays as tallied by the subcommittee and acknowledge the winners accordingly. Matthew Hughes seconded the motion. James will notify the essay contest winners. The essay contest winners will receive a cash award, a certificate and a copy of *The Emancipation Proclamation* by John Hope Franklin.

Music will be provided by Diali and other performances will be confirmed. James will draft the program and confirm the proper operation of the audio equipment. James will also notify media of the event.

VI. Subcommittee Updates

Executive Committee:

Colin informed the members that there are vacancies on the board and encouraged the members to recruit additional HRC members. It was discussed whether Matthew Prentice has received correspondence and invitations to the HRC meetings. James will send an email to all members confirming proper receipt of correspondence. It was also announced that there may be another member withdrawing from the board. Colin will contact a person interested in joining the HRC. James will send a link to the board application packet to all members.

Building Integrated Communities:

The subcommittee will meet immediately after the HRC meeting today to evaluate identifiable goals.

Emancipation Proclamation:

Rollin reminded the members of the two (2) Community Read events. The first Community Read will be held at the Flyleaf in Chapel Hill on Sunday, March 10, 2013 at 2 p.m. The second Community Read will be held at the Main Library in Hillsborough on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. The subcommittee is working on securing a script for a dramatization to be presented later this year. The subcommittee is also discussing whether a field trip to view the authentic Emancipation Proclamation in Raleigh could be arranged. James will contact Triangle Transit Authority to inquire about renting their services for a field trip. There was discussion on the success of the Human Relations Month Forum and how it may be improved in 2014.

Tenants' Bill of Rights:

The subcommittee met and tweaked the draft Tenants' Bill of Rights. The subcommittee has asked UNC law students to review the draft. The subcommittee's next meeting will be on February 27, 2013.

VII. Other Business/Announcements:

It was presented that there are issues throughout the county with mindless placement of parking spaces for persons with a disability. Gerald encouraged the members to take note of such inconveniently located designated parking spaces and present their findings to the board in a future meeting.

There was discussion whether to invite a representative from the NC Justice Center to make a presentation on the issues that a person with a criminal record faces. The members agreed to invite the NC Justice Center to a future meeting.

Colin read the resolution to acknowledge James Anderson's service as an HRC member. Scott made a motion to accept the resolution as drafted and issue the same to James Anderson. Lori seconded the motion. No objections; no discussion.

VIII. Adjourn

Without further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

James E. Davis, Jr.
Civil Rights Specialist