

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

6:30 PM

February 13, 2012

Animal Services Complex

M E M B E R S P R E S E N T			S T A F F
James Anderson	Shannon Jackson	Annette Uhlenberg	James Spivey
Christine Kelly-Kleese	Bryant Colson	Ashley Tittlemore	
Michael Stewart	Richard Perry	Barbara Marotto	
Cynthia Stubbs	Lori Schweickert	Joyce Preslar	
Jack Vogt			

NOTE: Colin Austin, Matthew Hughes, Rita Anita Linger, Lori Lumpkin, Michael Polich, Preston Scott Phillips, Marty Rosenbluth, and Rollin Russell informed staff that they were unable to attend this meeting.

I. MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION WAS MADE BY RICHARD PERRY AND SECONDED BY JAMES ANDERSON TO ACCEPT THE JANUARY 09, 2012 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. VOTE: AYES 12 (Anderson, Colson, Jackson, Marotto, Perry, Preslar, Schweickert, Stewart, Stubbs, Tittlemore, Uhlenberg, Vogt); NOES 0; TARDY 1 (Kelly-Kleese); EXCUSED 8 (Austin, Hughes, Linger, Lumpkin, Phillips, Polich, Rosenbluth, Russell).

II. DEBRIEF: HUMAN RELATIONS MONTH FORUM 2012

There was discussion regarding the Human Relations Month Forum 2012 with the theme: "Defining *MARRIAGE* in North Carolina by Constitutional Amendment: What are the Implications?" Overall comments of the forum were positive. The panelists, musician, and actors were all commended.

There was discussion regarding the lack of media and/or blogger coverage. It was suggested that outreach should be done to the various local media outlets to seek coverage prior to and after the event.

Members discussed the need to continue publicizing the implications of the proposed Amendment 1 which would define marriage by constitutional amendment in North Carolina. Some of the suggestions regarding how to continue publicizing the implications of the proposed amendment were:

- 1) Write various/multiple letters to the local newspapers regarding this matter.
- 2) Send letters to the local newspapers that would focus on one specific aspect of the proposed Amendment. Repeat this effort until all the individual aspects of the proposed Amendment has been reviewed and explained.
- 3) Invite the editorial staff of the various local media outlets to attend an HRC meeting to discuss how to get media coverage for HRC events and issues.

- 4) Contact the various local newspapers to ascertain if they are interested in publishing letters.
- 5) Contact the various local newspaper to ascertain if they are interested in publishing op-eds regarding issues proposed by the HRC.

A *newspaper* subcommittee was proposed to address the issue of sending letters to the various local newspapers. The subcommittee members are Barbara Marotto, Michael Stewart, Jack Vogt, Shannon Jackson, and Bryant Colson. It was also suggested and accepted that Alex Miller (*panelist for the Forum and former Interim Director of Equality NC*) be contacted to review the content of anything written regarding the proposed Amendment 1 prior to it being submitted to the media.

Barbara Marotto agreed to draft a letter for subcommittee review prior to the next HRC meeting.

Jack Vogt, outgoing Human Relations Month Subcommittee chair, agreed to work with subcommittee members to determine interest in the upcoming chairmanship.

III. STUDENT ESSAY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Richard Perry, Student Essay Subcommittee Chair, presented the slate of proposed student winners. Mr. Perry proposed the student essay contest winners as follows:

Middle school winners: 1st Place: Wenbo Wang of McDougle; 2nd Place: Elizabeth Siegling of Smith; and 3rd Place: Colette Cambey of C.W. Stanford.

High school winners: 1st Place: Elijah Moore of Chapel Hill High; 2nd Place: Ashley Han of Chapel Hill High; and 3rd Place: Natalee Atwater.

There were separate topics for middle school and high school students. The topic for middle school students was: *“If you could have one wish granted that would change our local community for the better, what would that wish be and why?”* The topic for high school students was: *“Describe a significant moment or experience you have had that illustrates your understanding of what ‘social justice’ means.”*

MOTION WAS MADE BY JACK VOGT AND SECONDED BY BRYANT COLSON TO ACCEPT THE ROSTER OF WINNERS OF THE STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST AS PROPOSED BY THE STUDENT ESSAY SUBCOMMITTEE. VOTE: AYES 13 (Anderson, Colson, Jackson, Kelly-Kleese, Marotto, Perry, Preslar, Schweickert, Stewart, Stubbs, Tittlemore, Uhlenberg, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 8 (Austin, Hughes, Linger, Lumpkin, Phillips, Polich, Rosenbluth, Russell).

IV. PAULI MURRAY AWARDS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Lori Schweickert stated that all the plans for the Pauli Murray Awards Ceremony were ready for implementation.

James Spivey explained the venue to host the Ceremony had been changed due to reorganization within New Hope Elementary School. He stated that all publicity ads in the local newspapers for the ceremony notes this change.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. ATTENDING BOCC MEETINGS

Lori Schweickert requested that this item be place on a future agenda because the discussion of this matter began during a previous meeting without completion.

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

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