

# HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

## revised MINUTES

6:30 PM

February 15, 2011

Animal Control Complex

MEMBERS PRESENT			STAFF
James Anderson	Colin Austin	Bryant Colson	James Spivey
Matthew Hughes	Shannon Jackson	Christine Kelly-Kleese	
Barbara Marotto	Richard Perry	Lori Schweickert	
Jack Vogt			

*NOTE: Marty Rosenbluth, Lori Lumpkin, Melissa Twomey, and Rita Anita Linger informed staff that they were unable to attend this meeting.*

### I. MINUTES APPROVAL

Bryant Colson convened the meeting and acknowledged new members. Mr. Colson asked that introductions be made. Each new member received a notebook and a small token (the story of the starfish – "...I make a difference!") to welcome them to the HRC.

Due to inclement weather, the January 10, 2011 HRC meeting was cancelled.

Due to Valentine's Day falling on the HRC's regularly scheduled meeting date, the membership re-scheduled the February meeting for Tuesday, February 15, 2011.

The membership reviewed the minutes of the December 13, 2010 meeting.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RICHARD PERRY AND SECONDED BY JACK VOGT TO ACCEPT THE DECEMBER 13, 2010 MINUTES WITH NOTED CHANGE. VOTE: AYES 10 (Anderson, Austin, Colson, Hughes, Jackson, Kelly-Kleese, Marotto, Perry, Schweickert, Vogt); NOES 0; ABSENT 1 (Uhlenberg); EXCUSED 4 (Linger, Lumpkin, Rosenbluth, Twomey).

### II. RECAP OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS MONTH KICK-OFF

Some of the positive aspects of the Kick-Off were the good attendance; the excellent panelists' presentations and exchanges; the audience participation; having interpreters and interpretative equipment; the food; and having Spanish and English printed programs.

Some things to consider for future events were to have light refreshments available during the meet-and-greet period; to have interpreters and interpretative equipment available in an effort to ensure equal access; and secure entertainment. These things for consideration were proposed with the acknowledgment of financial constraints.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JACK VOGT AND SECONDED BY BARBARA MAROTTO THAT A LETTER OF APPRECIATION BE DRAFTED TO MARLYN VALEIKO FOR HER COORDINATION OF THE INTERPRETERS AND SECURING THE INTERPRETATIVE EQUIPMENT FOR THE KICK-OFF. VOTE: AYES 10

(Anderson, Austin, Colson, Hughes, Jackson, Kelly-Kleese, Marotto, Perry, Schweickert, Vogt); NOES 0; ABSENT 1 (Uhlenberg); EXCUSED 4 (Linger, Lumpkin, Rosenbluth, Twomey).

This letter will be to acknowledge Ms. Valeiko's efforts in ensuring equal access to this community event.

### **III. SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

James Spivey explained that staff received a request-for-proposals from the UNC School of Government. Mr. Spivey explained that with the increasing immigrant populations, many cities and towns are developing and implementing immigrant integration programs. He stated that through a collaborative effort of the School of Government (SOG) and the Institute for the Study of the Americas at UNC, requests for proposals are made. He reviewed the technical assistance that would be provided if the HRC wanted to submit a proposal for consideration.

Mr. Spivey explained that any proposal submitted, based on the criteria outlined for proposals, should target the various immigrant and refugee populations. He acknowledged that currently staff is aware that Orange County has Asian, Burmese, and Hispanic populations.

There were questions regarding the submittal deadline date; if a proposal is submitted and selected, what impact would that have on meeting time, if any; and how to connect with the various immigrant communities in Orange County.

Mr. Spivey explained that Tara Fikes, the Director, spoke with the SOG and was granted an extension for the submittal deadline. He stated that Ms. Fikes informed him that the proposal, if the HRC wished to submit one, should be submitted by Monday, February 21, 2011.

Mr. Spivey stated that he was unaware of any implications regarding time commitment for this project if a proposal is submitted and is selected. He explained that Ms. Fikes communicated with the SOG.

Bryant Colson explained that, if a proposal is submitted and selected, he would encourage the SOG to collaboratively work with the existing HRC meeting schedule if at all possible. Mr. Colson stated that he would not want to impose on the members' schedules more than necessary.

Mr. Spivey explained that if the HRC was interested in submitting a proposal, the HRC might want to entertain aligning the proposal to one or several of the social justice goals adopted by the BOCC on September 02, 2010. He explained that the membership might want to give consideration to goal #5 which focuses on ensuring that Orange County residents are able to fully participate in the civic process.

James Spivey stated, in regards to connecting with the various immigrant communities, that certain current partnerships could afford opportunity for connecting with some of the immigrant communities. He explained that there is an existing partnership with El Centro Hispano; there is currently an existing partnership with the Rape Crisis Center which does outreach to various immigrant communities in Orange County; and suggested that the membership could perform outreach to various immigrant communities.

Christine Kelly-Kleese stated that she would contact/outreach to a Burmese female acquaintance. Ms. Kelly-Kleese explained that her acquaintance may not be able to actively participate but might provide references of other who might.

Bryant Colson referenced Marlyn Valeiko, the LEP Specialist, and the possibility of her involvement in this process. Mr. Colson explained, to his knowledge, Ms. Valeiko was both bi-lingual and bi-cultural.

The overall discussion regarding this matter was quite favorable. The membership voiced support of submitting a proposal. The membership suggested that representation from the various spectrums of the community (BOCC; Sheriff's Department; non-profits; business; elementary and high school systems; faith, etc.) be informed of and encouraged to participate in this process.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY RICHARD PERRY AND SECONDED BY JAMES ANDERSON THAT THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE STAFF TO:**

1. Complete and submit the application form for the request-for-proposals by Monday, February 21, 2011.
2. Align the submitted proposal to the September 02, 2010 Board of County Commissioners-Adopted Social Justice Goal # 5 which focuses on enabling full civic participation.

**VOTE:** AYES 10 (Anderson, Austin, Colson, Hughes, Jackson, Kelly-Kleese, Marotto, Perry, Schweickert, Vogt); NOES 0; ABSENT 1 (Uhlenberg); EXCUSED 4 (Linger, Lumpkin, Rosenbluth, Twomey).

The general consensus was that the Marlyn Valeiko, LEP Specialist, be actively involved in this undertaking. Additionally, the membership requested that a copy of the application be forwarded to them once completed and submitted to the School of Government.

#### **IV. 2011 PAULI MURRAY AWARDS DISCUSSION**

Bryant Colson explained that he had assured residents who had questions about the Pauli Murray Award that the ceremony was only cancelled for this year but not terminated

forever. Mr. Colson explained that he had informed residents that planning the ceremony was already being considered by the membership.

Richard Perry clarified that he volunteered to chair the Student Essay Subcommittee. Mr. Perry explained that he would arrange a time to meet with staff to review files regarding the student essay contest. He did stress the importance of beginning this process early to ensure the schools would have opportunity to incorporate the student essay contest into teachers' work plans. Mr. Perry also stated that he would collaborate with teachers from both the Orange County and Chapel Hill Carrboro school systems regarding this matter.

There was discussion regarding the monetary award to the winners of the student essay and possibly to the teacher's classroom from which the student winner was from. From this discussion, it was determined that the subcommittee would consider if to continue providing monetary awards to the student winners and if the monetary awards are continued, where/from whom would the money come from.

In regards to providing a monetary award to a teacher and/or the classroom from which a student winner is from, the general consensus was not to do that. Consideration was given to how such a gesture might be perceived by the BOCC, school system, residents, etc.

Christine Kelly-Kleese volunteered to serve on the Student Essay Subcommittee.

Lori Schweickert volunteered to chair the Pauli Murray Awards Subcommittee. Ms. Schweickert clarified that she would chair the subcommittee but could not be responsible for the logistics of the event.

It was suggested that the Pauli Murray Awards Subcommittee consider making an award for non-profits. It was explained that this matter have received limited consideration previously, but it is encouraged that the Subcommittee consider the matter and report to the full membership.

James Spivey explained that the logistics (correspondence, securing a venue, securing the awards, securing cater, securing entertainment, etc.) would be handled by staff.

## **V. SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLEMENTATION TOOL**

An historical overview was given regarding the social justice goals and the social justice implementation tool. This overview was given to apprise the new members about the goals and tool.

There was discussion regarding feedback submitted by the Board of Health to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). From this discussion, it was decided that the HRC would proceed in fulfilling the directive from the BOCC which is to develop an implementation tool for BOCC consideration.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JACK VOGT AND SECONDED BY JAMES ANDERSON TO:

1. ADOPT THE “SOCIAL JUSTICE GOAL IMPACT REVIEW TOOL” AS RE-FORMATTED.
2. FORWARD THE “SOCIAL JUSTICE GOAL IMPACT REVIEW TOOL” AS RE-FORMATTED TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR ADOPTION.

VOTE: AYES 10 (Anderson, Austin, Colson, Hughes, Jackson, Kelly-Kleese, Marotto, Perry, Schweickert, Vogt); NOES 0; ABSENT 1 (Uhlenberg); EXCUSED 4 (Linger, Lumpkin, Rosenbluth, Twomey).

## **VI. CARRBORO CENTENNIAL PUBLICATION**

James Spivey explained that the Carrboro Citizen will publish a commemorative a “coffee-table” magazine to acknowledge the Town of Carrboro’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mr. Spivey explained that information regarding the centennial publication is provided for HRC consideration as an opportunity to publicize the HRC.

Mr. Spivey reviewed the ad sizes and the cost associated with each ad size. He explained that the deadline date for submitting an ad for the centennial issues is March 31, 2011 and the publication date is April 28, 2011. He explained that staff does not have a preference as to whether an ad is published; he clarified that the information is shared because the opportunity presented itself.

The membership discussed this matter and voiced concern regarding the limited exposure this publication might have and the financial impact to the Commission’s limited budget.

It was suggested that if the Town of Carrboro host a community event to acknowledge its centennial, the HRC should staff a table at the event to publicize the goals, mission, and work of the HRC.

Richard Perry stated that he would check with the Carrboro Board of Aldermen to ascertain whether a community event is planned to acknowledge the centennial.

Shannon Jackson volunteered to investigate other avenues, with limited financial impact, to publicize the goals, mission, and work of the HRC.

Colin Austin suggested, and received support, that a marketing strategy for the HRC be developed. It was the consensus to make this an agenda item for further discussion.

Bryant Colson acknowledged the reduced budget of the HRC and explained that the HRC can use HUD funds when hosting events that promote equal access to housing. Mr. Colson explained that the HRC has historically hosted programs that promoted equal access to housing which allowed use of HUD funds.

The general consensus of the membership was to forego this method of publicity regarding the goals, mission, and work of the HRC.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. RECOMMENDATION OF APPOINTMENT**

MOTION WAS MADE BY RICHARD PERRY AND SECONDED BY JACK VOGT THAT THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPOINT PHILLIP SCOTT PRESTON TO THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL.

### **B. "TO DO" LIST OF THE ADVOCACY/OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE**

It was requested that staff provide a listing of the tasks to date assigned to the Advocacy/Outreach Subcommittee. This request arises from the observation that numerous tasks are assigned to this subcommittee and the subcommittee might be overwhelmed by the number of tasks. A listing of the tasks could allow opportunity for some of the tasks to be considered by Chair-appointed HRC members.

James Spivey stated that he would develop the "to do" list of the Advocacy/Outreach Subcommittee.

### **C. HUD BLOG: EQUAL ACCESS TO HOUSING FOR THE LGBT COMMUNITY**

James Spivey distributed information taken from the February 14, 2011 HUD blog. This information referenced HUD's efforts to let the public know about its initiative to ensure equal access of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people to its program. Mr. Spivey encouraged the membership to review this information and submit individual comment. He explained that the deadline for comment submittal is March 25, 2011.

Mr. Spivey explained that if the membership wished to voice comment as the HRC, the matter could be taken up at the March 14, 2011 meeting.

### **D. THE ORANGE COUNTY CIVIL RIGHTS ORDINANCE**

Jack Vogt suggested that the HRC revisit some of the action steps associated with the Social Justice Goal that were not adopted by the BOCC. Mr. Vogt suggested that the HRC consider making a recommendation to amend the Civil Rights Ordinance to make sexual orientation and sexual identity protected classes.

There was general support of this suggestion being an agenda item for HRC consideration.

**V. UNFINISHED BUISNESS**

**A. LETTER TO THE BOCC REGARDING THE CFW**

Bryant Colson reviewed the January 27, 2011 letter to the BOCC regarding the CFW. For the benefit of the new members, Mr. Colson reviewed the incidents regarding the current status of the CFW.

Shannon Jackson stated that her contacts are quite limited in regards to recruitment of people interested women's issues and serving on the HRC.

There was discussion regarding the need, if any, for there to be a subcommittee of the HRC to address women issues specifically. It was clarified that women issues are human rights issues and thus the HRC should be addressing women issues as it would any human rights issue.

**B. THE SEPTEMBER 02, 2010 BOCC-ADOPTED SOCIAL JUSTICE GOALS**

Jack Vogt suggested that the HRC consider making a recommendation that the BOCC-adopted social justice goals be forwarded to municipalities within Orange County for consideration and adoption.

Mr. Vogt also suggested that the HRC consider what steps should be taken to get the action steps associated with the Social Justice Goal adopted.

It was the general consensus to forward this matter to the Advocacy/Outreach Subcommittee.

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

***ADJOURNED!!!***