

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

6:30 PM

January 09, 2012

Animal Services Complex

M E M B E R S P R E S E N T			S T A F F
Colin Austin	Shannon Jackson	Joseph Polich	James Spivey
James Anderson	Rita Anita Linger	Preston Scott Phillips	
Cynthia Stubbs	Richard Perry	Barbara Marotto	
Matthew Hughes	Lori Schweickert	Joyce Preslar	
Jack Vogt			

NOTE: Bryant Colson, Christine Kelly-Kleese, Lori Lumpkin, Marty Rosenbluth, Rollin Russell, Michael Stewart, and Annette Uhlenberg 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 DECEMBER 12, 2011 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. VOTE: AYES 11 (Anderson, Austin, Jackson, Linger, Marotto, Perry, Phillips, Preslar, Schweickert, Stubbs, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 7 (Colson, Kelly-Kleese, Lumpkin, Rosenbluth, Russell, Stewart, Uhlenberg); TARDY 2 (Polich, Hughes).

II. HUMAN RELATIONS MONTH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Jack Vogt reviewed plans for the upcoming Human Relations Month Forum 2012. Mr. Vogt explained the efforts to get a proponent of the proposed Amendment 1 to serve on the panel and how those efforts failed. He also explained how a replacement panelist was gotten due to one of the panelist having to withdraw from participating in the Forum.

It was suggested and was supported that the local municipalities' HRC representatives will one of their respective municipality governing body meeting to extend an invitation to the upcoming Human Relations Month Forum 2012. Staff will provide the meeting dates and times to the HRC representatives.

Barbara Marotto and Jack Vogt informed the membership that they had been contacted for a radio interview regarding the Forum.

Joyce Preslar informed the membership that a back-up group is available if for some reason The Moaners are unable to perform at the Forum.

III. PAULI MURRAY AWARDS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Lori Schweickert, Subcommittee Chair, explained that the Subcommittee communicated electronically to determine the recommendation of recipients of the 2011 Pauli Murray

Awards. Ms. Schweickert provided an overview of the process used by the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee's recommendation was as follows:

- 2011 Youth Award: Joseph DeVito
- 2011 Individual Award: Maggie West
- 2011 Business Award: Chapel Hill Rehabilitation and Healthcare (CHR)

There was discussion regarding what distinguished the recommended recipients from the other nominees. It was reiterated that the Subcommittee communicated electronically during this process; that the Subcommittee members did not require any additional information regarding the nominees during their deliberation; and that the Subcommittee had a common understanding of the categories used to evaluate the nominees.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JACK VOGT AND SECONDED BY SHANNON JACKSON TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDED RECIPIENTS OF THE 2011 PAULI MURRAY AWARDS AS PROPOSED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE. VOTE: AYES 13 (Anderson, Austin, Hughes, Jackson, Linger, Marotto, Perry, Phillips, Polich, Preslar, Schweickert, Stubbs, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 7 (Colson, Kelly-Kleese, Lumpkin, Rosenbluth, Russell, Stewart, Uhlenberg); ABSENT 0.

There was discussion regarding the proposed stipend for Diali Cissokho and the Sacrificial Poets. A stipend of \$250 is proposed for Diali Cissokho and \$100 for The Sacrificial Poets.

James Spivey stated that he would check with Tara Fikes regarding available funds to provide the above-referenced stipend amounts.

IV. STUDENT ESSAY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Richard Perry asked that status of donations for the monetary awards for student winners. Members donated \$350.

James Spivey explained that about sixteen (16) essays had been received to date. He stated that the essays would be distributed to the Subcommittee members electronically (PDF format) and via US Postal Service.

V. EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION WORK GROUP REPORT

Barbara Marotto informed that membership that the Work Group had not been convened.

VI. SOCIAL JUSTICE GOAL & TOOL REPORT TO THE BOCC

James Spivey suggested that the membership continue to consider what they will want included in the report to the BOCC regarding the social justice goal and social justice goal impact review tool. He stated that the current priority or focus is the upcoming Human Relations Month Forum 2012 and the Paul Murray Awards Ceremony scheduled for the last Sunday in February 2012.

VII. BUILDING INTEGRATED COMMUNITIES WORK GROUP REPORT

James Spivey informed that membership that the Work Group was initially polled to determine if a January 28, 2012, 10 AM – 12 Noon meeting would be convenient to attend. He explained that it was determined that there is a meeting conflict for many members of the immigrant community so another meeting date and time is being considered. He explained that Tara Fikes is to contact Flicka Bateman regarding the meeting conflict and a decision would be made following that contact.

VIII. HUMAN RELATIONS MONTH

As is the annual practice, the HRC recommends that the BOCC declares the month of February HUMAN RELATIONS MONTH.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RITA ANITA LINGER AND SECONDED BY LORI SCHWEICKERT THAT THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ADOPTS THE ATTACHED PROCLAMATION TO DECLARE FEBRUARY AS HUMAN RELATIONS MONTH IN ORANGE COUNTY.

HUMAN RELATIONS MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Orange County Human Relations Commission believes that in order to achieve justice and equal opportunity for all Orange County residents, we must all strive to create an atmosphere where people are valued and accepted rather than merely tolerated, and therefore continue to promote the ideal of social justice for all; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Human Relations Commission has diligently served Orange County since 1995 and remains committed to promoting equal treatment, opportunity and understanding throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Human Relations Commission enforces the County's Civil Rights Ordinance which specifically prohibits discrimination based on an individual's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, veteran status and familial status; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Human Relations Commission encourages Orange County residents, as individuals, to take a stand against social injustice and continue to work together to make freedom, justice, and equal opportunity available for all; and

WHEREAS, Orange County is committed to preserving the progress made thus far towards equality and leading the challenge for equal opportunity using all the means at our disposal.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Orange County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim February 2012 as “**HUMAN RELATIONS MONTH**” in Orange County and challenge our residents to promote the ideology of social justice for all by celebrating and encouraging multiculturalism in the County and encouraging all residents to embrace diversity in Orange County.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A.....PROPOSED AMENDMENT 1: STATUS REPORT

A status report was requested regarding the proposed Amendment 1 to the North Carolina Constitution would be considered by the County Commissioners.

There was discussion and James Spivey stated that he would talk with Tara Fikes and provide a response regarding the status of the proposed Amendment 1 being considered by the County Commissioners.

B.....AMENDING THE CIVIL RIGHTS ORDINANCE: STATUS REPORT

A status report was requested regarding the HRC’s recommendation to the BOCC to take the necessary steps to begin the process of amending the Civil Rights Ordinance to include *sexual orientation* and *sexual identity* as protected classes. There was also question as to whether this issue would be directed to the BOCC or to the County Manager.

There was discussion and James Spivey stated that he would talk with Tara Fikes and provide a response regarding the status of the HRC’s recommendation to amend the Civil Rights Ordinance.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JACK VOGT AND SECONDED BY JAMES ANDERSON THAT IF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION’S RECOMMENDATION REGARDING AMENDING THE CIVIL RIGHTS ORDINANCE IS NOT ON THE JANUARY 24, 2012 AGENDA; A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC) WILL MAKE THE PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

VOTE: AYES 13 (Anderson, Austin, Hughes, Jackson, Linger, Marotto, Perry, Phillips, Polich, Preslar, Schweickert, Stubbs, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 7 (Colson, Kelly-Kleese, Lumpkin, Rosenbluth, Russell, Stewart, Uhlenberg); ABSENT 0.

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

adjourned!