

Orange County Human Relations Commission Minutes

**Monday, January 14, 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	Tara Fikes
Lori Schweickert	Christine Kelly-Kleese	Joe Polich	James Davis
Matthew Hughes	Rollin Russell	Joyce Preslar	
Robert Ireland			
G U E S T S			
Natalie Wu			

Absent: Shannon Jackson, Matthew Prentice, Tiki Windley, Li-Chen Chin, Preston Scott Phillips, Annette Uhlenberg

Human Relations Commission (HRC) Chair Colin Austin called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

I. Introductions

Visitor, Natalie Wu, introduced herself to the Commission and each member and staff introduced themselves.

II. Minutes

Colin informed the body that James Anderson resigned from the board effective today, January 14th. It was suggested that a resolution be presented to him for his work with the Commission.

Rollin moved to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2012 meeting. Christine seconded the motion. No objections; no discussion.

III. County Updates

Colin stated that the Google spreadsheet link showing the schedule of the BOCC meetings has been sent to the HRC. Joyce, Joseph and Rollin plan to attend the next BOCC meeting wherein the agenda will include the reading and issuance of the Human Relations Month proclamation.

IV. Human Relations Month Forum

Colin reminded the members that the Forum would be held on Sunday, January 27, 2013. The program participants will include Colin who will provide opening remarks and Christine will provide closing remarks. Commission members will act as hosts at the event. It was recommended that the Chair of the BOCC be placed on the program to address the audience on behalf of BOCC. The venue (Carrboro Century Center) will provide staff on the day of the event to provide any assistance with logistics (AV equipment, chairs, etc.). Dr. Parker will present information about the Emancipation Proclamation and Rev. Williams will present information about equality today. The band will start at 2:30 p.m. and the program will commence at 3:00 p.m. An invitation has been sent to the entire BOCC.

Ms. Tara Fikes informed the Commission that the BOCC will be issuing the annual Human Relations Month proclamation at their January 27, 2013 meeting. Rollin, Joseph and Joyce will be there for this presentation. It was recommended that one of them read the proclamation aloud and to invite those in attendance to join us at the Forum.

Emancipation Proclamation:

The date of the Hillsborough area Community Read event is confirmed for Tuesday, March 12, 2013 @ 6:30 p.m. at the main library. Dr. Reg. Hildebrand will facilitate this event. Plans are underway to locate a site in Chapel Hill as well. Rollin also reported that the film showing of "Race: the Power of an Illusion" will need to be rescheduled.

V. Pauli Murray Awards Ceremony

Awards Ceremony:

Crystal Fisher was nominated to receive the individual award and Emma Morris was nominated to receive the youth award. It was recommended that the subcommittee move forward with these candidates. Rollin made a motion to have the Pauli Murray Awards Ceremony on February 24, 2013, that the awards will be given out in accordance with the judging by the subcommittee, and that the family of Pauli Murray be contacted and invited to come to the ceremony. Gerald seconded the motion. No objections.

It was suggested that the Sacrificial Poets provide entertainment as well as the musician from last year. Christine will follow up with the musician from last year and Joyce will follow up with the Sacrificial Poets. There will also be an effort to shorten the program this year so performances will be limited.

James Davis will be sure to designate the reserved seating as for the family of Pauli Murray.

Essays:

James Davis informed the body that there was one (1) additional essay, bringing the total to 41 high school entries and 17 middle school entries. Christine recommended that the subcommittee complete their reading of the essays and submit their score cards in two weeks. The essay award winners will receive a certificate and there will be a plaque for the youth and adult Pauli Murray award winners.

VI. Subcommittee Updates

Building Integrated Communities:

It was reported that this subcommittee is currently "stalled." Staff will get a list of the subcommittee members to Preston Scott Phillips so that individual contact may be made for follow-up.

Tenants' Bill of Rights:

The intent of this subcommittee is to develop a Bill of Rights to educate tenants. This document would be conspicuously posted in areas such as meeting spaces, common areas, office spaces and on websites to remind people of their rights under the law. There was discussion of whether a tenant would have an advocate to assist in understanding a lease agreement. Robert recommended that the Bill of Rights grant tenants an opportunity to have time to get assistance in understanding their lease agreement before signing it. Gerald stated that some landlords would not explain the lease and that a tenant may need a third party to explain its contents. It was suggested that the final draft be sent to BOCC for approval.

Staff will send a copy of the draft Tenants' Bill of Rights to the HRC. Colin recommended that the Bill of Rights be linked to the social justice goal and that copies of that goal be sent to HRC members as well.

Other Business:

Colin made the following recommendations:

1. Place the membership committee under the executive committee. Rollin made a motion to accept this restructure, seconded by Joyce. No objections.
2. Consolidate the Pauli Murray Award and the Essay subcommittees. Concern was voiced about losing the integrity of the work done by each subcommittee and that some of the work may get lost. Based on these concerns, it was recommended that the subcommittees continue to operate independently of each other for now.
3. Members of the Emancipation Subcommittee will be re-assigned to another subcommittee after March 2013. Colin will send an email asking if anyone wants to change subcommittees or be added to a subcommittee.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m. on a motion by Gerald, seconded by Rollin.

Respectfully Submitted:

James E. Davis, Jr.
Civil Rights Specialist