



**Orange County Human Relations Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**Monday, June 10, 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	Marc Xavier	Rollin Russell	James Davis
Cynthia Stubbs	Christine Kelly-Kleese	Preston Scott Phillips	Tara Fikes
Matthew Hughes	Lori Schweickert	Gerald Ponder	
Robert Ireland	Natalie Wu		
G U E S T S			

*Absent: Joe Polich, Jamie Paulen, Joyce Preslar and Annette Uhlenberg*

**I. Call To Order**

Chair Colin Austin called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**II. Introductions**

Colin welcomed new members Marc Xavier and Natalie Wu. Members introduced themselves.

**III. Minutes**

Rollin made a motion to accept the May 2013 minutes as drafted. Gerald seconded the motion. No objections.

**IV. County Updates**

It was reported that Robert, Cynthia, Rollin and Scott conducted outreach at the annual Hogg Day Festival in May. The members had the opportunity to introduce the achievements and the mission of the HRC to the public and solicit interest in HRC membership. Tara reported that the Manager's recommended budget includes funding to the Human Rights Center. Tara also reported that there were no anticipated changes to the budget for the Department of Housing, Human Rights and Community Development.

**V. Subcommittee Updates**

*Executive Committee:*

Colin presented the mission of each subcommittee to the new members and invited the members to participate in at least one subcommittee. Colin also provided a debriefing of the Executive Committee's conference call on June 3, 2013.

### *Building Integrated Communities:*

The committee will contact El Centro Hispano and seek opportunities for HRC to participate in their events. It was also recommended that the subcommittee become involved with the Karen community and develop relationships with other migrant communities within Orange County.

### *Emancipation Proclamation/Human Relations Month:*

Colin commended the subcommittee for involving community members in the planning of their events and it was further recommended that the HRC send a note of “thank you” to these community members. Rollin suggested that these persons be invited to join the Human Relations Month subcommittee.

Rollin announced that the bus tour to visit the *Freedom Come; Freedom for All* exhibit at the North Carolina Museum of History was cancelled due to a lack of attendees. It was reported that the subcommittee may coordinate a Community Read in conjunction with the Orange County Library. Rollin stated that a dramatization of the life of George Moses Horton has been written and a search for a director and actors has begun. The subcommittee secured facilitators for the discussion and showing of the film “Race: The Power of an Illusion.” This is a three (3) part film scheduled to be shown at the main library on October 12, 19, and 26, 2013, respectively. Each showing is from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.

It was recommended that the topic of the 2014 Human Relations Month Forum be The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Christine made a motion to accept this recommended topic. Scott seconded the motion. No objections. The subcommittee further suggested that the Pauli Murray Student Essay subcommittee consider adopting the same topic.

The date of the Human Relations Month Forum is Sunday, January 26, 2014. James reported that he has reserved the Carrboro Century Center as the venue.

### *Tenants’ Bill of Rights:*

Colin commended the subcommittee for working in collaboration with other agencies including Justice United and the UNC Law School. Lori reported that Tish Galu from Justice United will submit a final draft of the Tenants’ Bill of Rights to the HRC later this summer. It was recommended that the HRC present the Tenants’ Bill of Rights to the Board of County Commissions for endorsement.

### *Pauli Murray Awards:*

The subcommittee suggested that the Pauli Murray Awards ceremony should be scheduled for Sunday, February 23, 2014. It was recommended that the subcommittee work backwards from this date and set benchmarks for the work to be completed leading up to the awards ceremony. James distributed a list of recommended criteria for the subcommittee to consider as requirements for the 2013 award recipients.

*Essay Contest:*

It was recommended that the 2014 essay contest topic be: What would life be like in the U.S. if the Civil Rights Law of 1964 was not passed. The subcommittee plans to present the topic to the HRC for a vote in August and post public notice of the contest later this fall.

*Collateral Consequences:*

Robert reported that Durham County Government has implemented a process for conducting criminal background checks. In an update provided by Joe via email, Joe stated that he has been collaborating with Daniel Bowes from the North Carolina Justice Center to draft a criminal background check process that is similar to Durham County's process. The subcommittee plans to present the final draft to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration. James will check with the Orange County Human Resources Department to discover whether there is already a similar process in place.

**VI. Officer Voting**

The following members accepted nominations for officers: Christine Kelly-Kleese as Chair, Rollin Russell as Vice Chair and Cynthia Stubbs as Secretary. Gerald made a motion to accept these nominees as the 2014 Officers. Scott seconded the motion. No objections.

**VII. State Legislative Updates: North Carolina Voter I.D.**

Matt made a presentation on the implications of the pending laws requiring North Carolinians to have a state-issued photo identification card for voting. He also presented information on the proposed law as it pertains to early voting. The presentation included data on voter fraud within North Carolina and across the country.

**VIII. Other Business/Announcements:**

Colin announced that Lori Schweickert has elected not to seek reappointment and will no longer serve on the HRC effective June 30, 2013. Colin presented Lori with a Resolution of Appreciation. It was also announced that Colin Austin will resign from the HRC effective August 13, 2013. Christine presented Colin with a Resolution of Appreciation.

**X. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

James E. Davis, Jr.  
Civil Rights Specialist