

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

6:30 PM

June 11, 2012

Animal Services Complex

M E M B E R S P R E S E N T		G U E S T S
James Anderson	Colin Austin	Patrick Akos
Lori Schweickert	Shannon Jackson	Tiffany Boley
Barbara Marotto	Richard Perry	Li-Chen Chin
Cynthia Stubbs	Rollin Russell	S T A F F
Rollin Russell	Joyce Preslar	James Spivey

NOTE: Matthew Hughes, Christine Kelly-Kleese, Lori Lumpkin, Jack Vogt, Preston Scott Phillips, Ashley Tittmore, and Annette Uhlenberg informed staff that they were unable to attend this meeting.

I. MINUTES APPROVAL

The meeting was convened and introductions were made. The guests – Patrick Akos, Tiffany Boley, Li-Chen Chin – were residents who have voiced an interest in being appointed to the HRC. The guest were welcomed and all present provided a brief background of themselves and their interest in serving on the Human Relations Commission (HRC).

MOTION WAS MADE BY BRYANT COLSON AND SECONDED BY RICHARD PERRY TO ACCEPT THE MAY 14, 2012 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. VOTE: AYES 10 (Anderson, Austin, Colson, Jackson, Marotto, Perry, Preslar, Russell, Schweickert, Stubbs); NOES 0; EXCUSED 7 (Hughes, Kelly-Kleese, Lumpkin, Phillips, Tittmore, Uhlenberg, Vogt); ABSENT 2 (Polich, Rosenbluth).

Richard Perry suggested that future Minutes should note who convenes the HRC meetings.

II. ELECTION OF 2012-2013 HRC OFFICERS

Barbara Marotto, outgoing Chair, made comments regarding her tenure on and the work of the HRC.

James Spivey counted the ballots and announced Colin Austin as Chair; Christine Kelly-Kleese as Vice-Chair; and a tie between Shannon Jackson and Ashley Tittmore as Secretary.

Colin Austin, incoming Chair, cited some of the accomplishments of the HRC and reviewed the charge to the HRC. Mr. Colin stated that when a Director's Decision regarding a fair housing violation is challenged, a 3-member panel from the HRC is appointed and trained to hear the argument of the challenge.

III. UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

A. MEMBERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

Shannon Jackson, Subcommittee Co-Chair, made the report. Ms. Jackson stated that she made contact with the ten (10) Orange County residents on file who had voiced an interest in serving on the HRC. Three of the ten potential members accepted Ms. Jackson's invitation to attend this meeting.

There was discussion regarding the need for new member orientation and executive committee orientation.

James Spivey stated that orientation for new members and the executive committee can be provided by staff. No set date was decided for the orientation.

B. BUILDING INTEGRATE COMMUNITIES (BIC) SUBCOMMITTEE

Colin Austin made the report. Mr. Austin explained the BIC initiative. An ultimate goal of the initiative is to empower members of the various immigrant communities to advocate for themselves, service on various advisory boards/commissions, and to speak directly to the BOCC.

The next meeting of the BIC Subcommittee is June 19, 2012 at 6:30 PM in the Seymour Senior Center.

C. EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Rollin Russell made the report. Mr. Russell referenced possible events the subcommittee discussed to acknowledge the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and who should participate in planning the events. Mr. Russell discussed the need for broad, diverse, and county-wide support of this effort.

Some suggestions for publicizing this effort were: LearnNC.org and WUNC's State of Things.

The next meeting of the Emancipation Proclamation Subcommittee is June 27, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Department Conference Room.

D. SUBCOMMITTEE ROSTER

The subcommittee rosters were reviewed. Michael Stewart, Rita Anita Linger, and Marty Rosenbluth were removed from the rosters because they are no longer active members of the HRC.

Lori Schweickert stated that she wanted to remain a member of the Pauli Murray Awards Subcommittee but did not want to remain the Chair of the subcommittee.

James Anderson stated that he would serve on the Membership Subcommittee.

Joyce Preslar stated that she would serve on the Emancipation Proclamation Subcommittee.

E. STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE HRC

There was discussion regarding staff support for the HRC in light of James Spivey's impending retirement.

Barbara Marotto informed the membership that Tara Fikes, during the Executive Committee conference call, stated that the HRC would have staff support.

F. ATTENDANCE AT BOCC MEETINGS

Cynthia Stubbs questioned the status of the proposal submitted regarding an HRC presence at BOCC meetings.

It was clarified that the Executive Committee would review the submitted proposal and develop a process for membership review.

G. CHAPEL HILL TOWN COUNCIL: MEN'S SHELTER

There was reference made to the Chapel Hill Town Council considering the issues of a men's shelter.

H. RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION

The following resolutions of appreciation were read by HRC Chair Colin Austin and given to the HRC member.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION to BRYANT M. COLSON

WHEREAS, Bryant M. Colson, by official action of the Orange County Board of County Commissioners on September 21, 2004, was appointed to the Orange County Human Relations Commission (HRC) to fulfill an unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Colson eagerly began serving his official HRC two successive 3-year terms upon his fulfillment of the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Colson demonstrated his leadership ability not only by serving on HRC subcommittees – Building Integrated Communities, Bylaws, Emancipation Proclamation, Human Relations Month, Membership, Ordinance, Pauli Murray Awards - but oftentimes as chair, co-chair, and/or vice-chair of said subcommittees; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Colson further demonstrated his leadership by serving as Vice-Chair and Chair of the HRC; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Colson has contributed to fostering the principles of equity and the elimination of oppressive acts by conscientiously attending and actively participating in HRC meetings, events, street fairs, and programs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Colson, throughout his tenure on the HRC, has devoted himself wholeheartedly to the mission, goals, and objectives of the HRC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Orange County Human Relations Commission and support staff hereby convey their deepest and most sincere expressions of gratitude and appreciation to **BRYANT** for the invaluable contributions he made during his tenure on the HRC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be placed in the official Minutes of the HRC and a copy given to **BRYANT**.

THIS THE 11TH DAY OF JUNE, 2012.

COLIN K. AUSTIN, Chair
Orange County Human Relations Commission

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION to BARBARA “BARB” MAROTTO

WHEREAS, Barbara “Barb” Marotto, by official action of the Orange County Board of County Commissioners on August 28, 2006 was appointed to the Orange County Human Relations Commission (HRC); and

WHEREAS, Ms. Marotto’s leadership abilities were acknowledged by the HRC membership who elected her to serve as Vice-Chair and Chair of the HRC; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Marotto has served diligently on several subcommittees during her tenure on the HRC including, but not limited to, the Pauli Murray Awards, Membership, Bylaws, Advocacy/Outreach, and Student Essay Contest; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Marotto has given freely and unselfishly her time and energy to strengthened and reinforced the democratic process of addressing social justice issues in Orange County; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Marotto has contributed to fostering the principles of equity and the elimination of oppressive acts by conscientiously attending and actively participating in HRC meetings, events, and programs; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Marotto, throughout her tenure on the HRC, has wholeheartedly devoted herself to the mission, goals, and objectives of the HRC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Orange County Human Relations Commission hereby conveys its deepest and most sincere appreciation to **BARB** for the invaluable contributions she has made during her tenure on the HRC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be placed in the official Minutes of the HRC and a copy given to **BARB**.

THIS THE 11th DAY OF JUNE, 2012.

COLIN AUSTIN, Chair

Orange County Human Relations Commission

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION to A. John "JACK" Vogt

WHEREAS, A. John "Jack" Vogt, by official action of the Orange County Board of County Commissioners on December 13, 2005, was appointed to the Orange County Human Relations Commission (HRC); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vogt has strengthened and reinforced the democratic process by contributing his time and expertise in finance and government to assist in addressing social justice issues in Orange County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vogt's knowledge, experience, and commitment to promoting positive human relations were critical to the preparation and adoption of HRC positions taken regarding social justice issues within Orange County, the State, and our Nation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vogt not only served on various HRC subcommittees –Human Relations Month, Nominating, Ordinance, Pauli Murray Awards - but oftentimes served as chair and/or co-chair of said subcommittees; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vogt's quiet, unassuming demeanor always warranted respect and oftentimes facilitated consensus regarding critical social justice issues; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vogt has contributed to fostering the principles of equality and the elimination of oppressive acts by conscientiously attending and actively participating in HRC meetings, events, and programs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Orange County Human Relations Commission and support staff hereby convey their deepest and most sincere expressions of gratitude and appreciation to **JACK** for the invaluable contributions he has made during his tenure on the HRC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED a copy of this resolution has been placed in the official Minutes of the HRC and a copy given to **JACK**.

THIS THE 11TH DAY OF JUNE, 2012.

Colin K. Austin, Chair
Orange County Human Relations Commission

NOTE: Jack was not present to receive his resolution; it will be given to him at the next meeting.

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

adjourned!