

Orange County Human Relations Commission Minutes

Monday, March 11, 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	James Davis
Joe Polich	Christine Kelly-Kleese	Joyce Preslar	
Matthew Hughes	Rollin Russell		
Robert Ireland	Preston Scott Phillips		
G U E S T S			
Daniel Bowes			
<i>Absent: Matthew Prentice, Li-Chen Chin, Annette Uhlenberg and Lori Schweickert</i>			

I. Call To Order

Chair Colin Austin called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

II. Introductions

The members and staff introduced themselves to guest, Daniel Bowes. Colin informed the members that Shannon Jackson resigned from the board effective March 11, 2013. The absences of Annette Uhlenberg and Li-Chen Chin were excused.

III. Minutes

Rollin Russell moved to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2013 meeting. Gerald Ponder seconded the motion. No objections.

IV. Presentation by NC Justice Center

Attorney Daniel Bowes, from the NC Justice Center, made a presentation on the collateral consequences of having a criminal record. It was proposed that the members consider a “ban the box” campaign to encourage employers to refrain from asking about an applicant’s criminal record until after the applicant has otherwise been approved to engage in follow-up interviews. There was discussion whether “criminal record” should be added as a protected class under the Social Justice Goal. Joyce, Robert and Joe stated that they were interested in being on a committee to research and report on the issue of collateral consequences.

V. County Updates

Robert Ireland attended the BOCC meeting on March 5, 2013. It was discussed whether the County Departments follow up on public issues that are presented at the BOCC meetings. It was further discussed that the HRC would follow up on issues specific to the mission of the HRC whenever such matters are presented at BOCC meetings. Colin announced that he will make a presentation of the HRC’s annual report to the BOCC on April 16, 2013 and encouraged the members to attend.

VI. Pauli Murray Awards Ceremony Debriefing

The members commented on the success of the Pauli Murray Awards ceremony. It was recommended that the award application packet be updated to include a photo release. It was also recommended that the essay contest packet include a release permitting the HRC to publish the winning entries on the website or submit them to a news medium. It was discussed whether a family member of Dr. Pauli Murray should be included in the process of selecting a winner of the awards.

Colin recommended that the Pauli Murray Awards subcommittee should be re-constituted. He will send emails to solicit members to join this subcommittee.

James presented the members with an invitation from Alpha Delta Kappa, a professional international teacher's sorority, for someone from HRC to make a presentation at their meeting in Durham, NC on Saturday, May 4, 2013 about the Pauli Murray Awards. James will follow up with the members to determine who will represent the HRC at this meeting.

VII. Subcommittee Updates

Executive Committee:

Colin presented applications from Marc Xavier and Natalie Wu to serve on the HRC. After discussion, Rollin moved to accept both applications and invite these applicants to serve on the commission. Gerald seconded the motion. Colin requested the members to encourage others with broad and diverse experiences and perspectives to apply to the board.

It was presented whether HRC members were able to attend HUD conferences. James will inform the members of the available opportunities the members will have to attend conferences.

The members reviewed the budget details provided by the Director of the Orange County Housing, Human Rights and Community Development Department.

Building Integrated Communities:

The subcommittee is reviewing a Building Integrating Communities action plan from High Point, NC and will consider how to implement similar actions. The subcommittee will determine its achievable goals and may opt to address the issue of the NC driver's licenses for non-U.S. citizens that bear a pink stripe and the wording: *No Lawful Status*.

Emancipation Proclamation:

Rollin commented on the success of the Community Read on Sunday, March 10, 2013 and invited the members to attend to the book read scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the main library in Hillsborough, NC. Rollin also announced that the subcommittee has a script for a drama presentation.

Tenants' Bill of Rights:

The members reviewed the minutes from the February 27, 2013 Justice United meeting containing an update on the drafting of a Tenants' Bill of Rights. It was reported that University of North Carolina law students are working on a finished product.

VIII. Other Business/Announcements:

The members discussed the new NC driver's licenses and the possible ramifications of issuing a license bearing the words "No Lawful Status." It was opined that this license designation may result in discrimination against those who are subjected to obtaining this license.

It was stated that the issue of a North Carolina voter I.D. bill is in the works. There was a film to commemorate International Women's Month which is being shown at Campbell Law School. It was announced that James will make two (2) fair housing presentations at a workshop on Saturday, April 6, 2013 at the Carrboro Century Center.

VIII. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. on a motion by Joyce and seconded by Robert.

Respectfully Submitted:

James E. Davis, Jr.
Civil Rights Specialist