

# HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

## *revised* MINUTES

6:30 PM

March 12, 2012

Animal Services Complex

M E M B E R S P R E S E N T			S T A F F
Cynthia Stubbs	Joseph Polich	Rollin Russell	Tara Fikes
Christine Kelly-Kleese	Bryant Colson	Ashley Tittlemore	James Spivey
Jack Vogt	Richard Perry	Barbara Marotto	
Colin Austin	Matthew Hughes	Joyce Preslar	

**NOTE:** *James Anderson, Shannon Jackson, Rita Anita Linger, Lori Lumpkin, Marty Rosenbluth, Michael Stewart, Lori Schweickert, Annette Uhlenberg, and Preston Scott Phillips informed staff that they were unable to attend this meeting.*

### I. MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION WAS MADE BY ROLLIN RUSSELL AND SECONDED BY JOYCE PRESLAR TO ACCEPT THE FEBRUARY 13, 2012 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. VOTE: AYES 12 (Austin, Colson, Hughes, Kelly-Kleese, Marotto, Perry, Polich, Preslar, Russell, Stubbs, Tittlemore, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 9 (Anderson, Jackson, Linger, Lumpkin, Phillips, Rosenbluth, Schweickert, Stewart, Uhlenberg).

### II. DEBRIEF: PAULI MURRAY AWARDS CEREMONY

Comments regarding the Pauli Murray Ceremony included praise and references to what could have been changed such as the length of the program (should have been shortened by 15 to 30 minutes) and fewer poets (maybe 3 to 4 poets as opposed to 7 poets). There was comment regarding the PA system, and it was noted that the PA system in the facility normally does not work properly.

Staff noted the suggestions and clarified that the PA system issues were due to batteries used in the microphone.

There was discussion about contacting Alicia Stempa, who took photos at the Ceremony, regarding the possibility of getting copies of some of her photographs. Additionally, it was shared that Ms. Stempa volunteered to possibly make a video of the student essay contest winners reading their essays. Staff will follow-up with Ms. Stempa.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ROLLIN RUSSELL AND SECONDED BY COLIN AUSTIN TO COMMEND THE MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS MONTH SUBCOMMITTEE, THE STUDENT ESSAY SUBCOMMITTEE, AND THE PAULI MURRAY AWARDS SUBCOMMITTEE FOR PLANNING SUCCESSFUL EVENTS. VOTE: AYES 12 (Austin, Colson, Hughes, Kelly-Kleese, Marotto, Perry, Polich, Preslar, Russell, Stubbs, Tittlemore, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 9 (Anderson, Jackson, Linger, Lumpkin, Phillips, Rosenbluth, Schweickert, Stewart, Uhlenberg).

### **III. LEGISLATIVE REQUEST TO THE BOCC**

At the October 10, 2012 HRC meeting, the HRC recommended that the County Commissioners take the appropriate steps to amend the Civil Rights Ordinance to include *sexual orientation* and *sexual identity* as protected classes and that this matter be included in the legislative agenda of the Orange County Legislative Delegation for the next legislative session.

Tara Fikes informed the membership that a subcommittee of the BOCC had been meeting to develop the legislative agenda which includes issues of 1) Local Bills, 2) Items of Interest, 3) Areas of Support, and 4) Legislative Items from the Association of County Commissioners. Ms. Fikes clarified that the HRC's recommendation is included under the issue of Areas of Support.

Ms. Fikes informed the membership that a public hearing regarding the BOCC's legislative agenda is schedule for April 3, 2012 in the Social Services Center at 7 PM. Additionally, the BOCC and Legislative Delegation meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2012.

### **IV. ADVISORY BOARDS/COMMISSIONS POLICY**

In 2009 the Board of Commissioners determined that the advisory board policies and procedures needed to be revised or even completely replaced. The Board further studied the issue with representatives of the UNC School of Government. After this study, the Board directed the County Attorney to draft an advisory board policy document for the Board's review.

In 2011 the Board of Commissioners tentatively approved a general advisory board policy document to govern the procedures of its advisory boards/commissions. The general policy document was needed because of a wide disparity between and among the procedures of the multiple advisory boards/commissions reporting to the Board of Commissioners.

Tara Fikes reviewed the BOCC-adopted advisory board policy document. Some questions from the membership included:

1. Can a subcommittee meet by email to discuss issues?
2. Do subcommittees have to meet on the same day as the advisory board to meet the notice requirement?
3. Are HRC members' email about HRC business subject to public records laws?
4. Section XI, Paragraph C.3 says that the Commission cannot take a position on any political issue or candidate. The HRC recently recommended that the BOCC pass a resolution in opposition to Amendment One. Is that considered taking a position on a political issue? Further, the HRC has advocated for the inclusion of sexual orientation and

sexual identity as a protected class in the County Civil Rights Ordinance.  
Would that be considered taking a political position?

Ms. Fikes stated that she would seek clarification from the County Attorney's Office regarding the questions.

A draft copy of the advisory board policy document specific for the HRC was distributed. Staff explained that the previous HRC Bylaws had been inserted into the BOCC-approved advisory board policy format.

A subcommittee was proposed to review the HRC-specific advisory board policy document and report to the full membership. Joseph Polich and Cynthia Stubbs volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. .... FUNDING APPLICATION: HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER**

Tara Fikes explained that the county process for non-profit organizations seeking funding; now advisory boards review applications whose line of work aligns similarly. Make a recommendation to county manager about funding.

A subcommittee was proposed to review this application and make recommendation regarding the funding request. The subcommittee consists of Bryant Colson, Ashley Tittlemore, and Richard Perry. The subcommittee's funding recommendation is due by March 30, 2012.

There was question regarding the charge to the subcommittee in regards to their funding recommendation being on behalf of the HRC to the County Manager or made to the full membership first and then the full membership make the recommendation to the County Manager.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ROLLIN RUSSELL AND SECONDED BY CHRISTINE KELLY-KLEESE THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE IS EMPOWERED TO MAKE THE FUNDING RECOMMENDATION FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER ON BEHALF OF THE ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION TO THE COUNTY MANAGER. VOTE: AYES 12 (Austin, Colson, Hughes, Kelly-Kleese, Marotto, Perry, Polich, Preslar, Russell, Stubbs, Tittlemore, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 9 (Anderson, Jackson, Linger, Lumpkin, Phillips, Rosenbluth, Schweickert, Stewart, Uhlenberg).

### **B. .... APPOINTMENT: NOMINATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Jack Vogt, Richard Perry, and Joseph Polich volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee.

James Spivey explained that the Nominating Committee is charged with the development of a slate of officers for consideration by the full membership during the June 2012 HRC meeting. Mr. Spivey explained that the ascension process has been used by the HRC in regards to the vice-chair becoming the chair of the HRC. So the Nominating Committee usually contacts members to ascertain their interest in serving as vice-chair and as secretary, two different individuals per position/office. He further explained that the slate of officers should be included in the May agenda packet and the election of officers takes place during the June meeting.

**C. .... AMENDMENT I SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT: NEWSPAPER OP-ED**

Barbara Marotto stated that the Subcommittee has begun its work and will have a proposed document for membership reaction.

There was discussion regarding how to proceed considering the new advisory board policy document; specifically advisory boards' taking positions regarding political issues. It was stated that the charge of/to the HRC is to advise the BOCC on human rights issues which require the HRC take a position regarding political issues due to the nature of human rights issues.

Tara Fikes will seek clarification from the County Attorney's office regarding this question also.

By consensus, the subcommittee will continue its work while clarification is sought from the County Attorney office.

**D. .... HRC PRESENCE AT BOCC MEETING**

This matter was delayed until a future meeting.

**E. .... BUILDING INTEGRATED COMMUNITIES**

Christine Kelly-Kleese and Colin Austin provided a status report regarding the Building Integrated Communities Initiative. They reported that the grant received by the UNC School of Government (SOG) for this initiative had run its course and SOG staff will no longer be actively involved in this effort.

Additionally, it was reported that more aggressive outreach efforts to the immigrant communities are needed to ensure committed participation from the various immigrant communities. An idea/goal of this effort is the formulation of an immigrant advisory committee that would report to the HRC or to the county manager. Another idea/goal is to build more collaborative relationships with organizations that address immigrant issues and with individuals from the various immigrant communities for HRC recruitment purposes to secure immigrant representation on the HRC.

Mr. Austin and Ms. Kelly-Kleese emphasized that this effort will require time and commitment.

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

***a d j o u r n e d!***