

**Orange County Human Relations Commission
Minutes
Monday, May 13, 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	Li-Chen Chin	Rollin Russell	James Davis
Cynthia Stubbs	Christine Kelly-Kleese	Preston Scott Phillips	
Matthew Hughes	Lori Schweickert	Gerald Ponder	
Robert Ireland	Joyce Preslar		
G U E S T S			
Tish Galu	Colleen Blue		

Absent: Joe Polich and Annette Uhlenberg

I. Call To Order

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

II. Introductions

Colin welcomed the guests and the members introduced themselves. Colin read a card from Emma Morris, winner of the Pauli Murray Youth Award, thanking the HRC for the award and expressing her appreciation of the HRC's role in addressing human relations issues.

III. Minutes

Matthew made a motion to accept the April 2013 minutes as drafted. Gerald seconded the motion. No objections.

IV. El Centro Hispano Update

Colleen Blue from El Centro Hispano presented information about their work. Colleen stated that El Centro Hispano has four (4) core programs that include health, community organizing, education and support services. There is a new staff person in Carrboro who is learning the environment and will be acclimated to address the issue of day laborers. El Centro Hispano plans to address low literacy levels in the communities they serve, offer employment assistance programs, and remedy the lack of quality childcare.

V. County Updates

Colin reported that he made a presentation of the HRC's annual report to the Board of County Commissioners on April 16, 2013. He stated that the BOCC inquired about the Social Justice Goal and whether the HRC is making an effort to address women-specific social justice issues. Colin stated that the HRC will follow-up on both matters.

VI. Subcommittee Updates

Executive Committee:

Cynthia Stubbs accepted Colin's recommendation to occupy the office of secretary and complete the term vacated by Shannon Jackson. Rollin made a motion to appoint Cynthia to this office. Lori seconded the motion. No objections. Officers will be elected at the June 2013 meeting. Colin will send an email to the members requesting officer nominations. James stated that the BOCC may appoint the new HRC members during their upcoming meeting.

Building Integrated Communities:

Preston Scott Phillips stated that the presentation made by El Centro Hispano at today's meeting is an example of how the HRC could communicate and facilitate capacity building with other communities. He suggested that future meetings or every other meeting should feature a presentation by an entity that represents a different community. He further stated that he will continue to communicate with the people on the BIC contact list to keep them engaged.

Emancipation Proclamation:

Rollin announced the date of the bus trip to view the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation and the date the subcommittee will show the film: "Race: The Power of an Illusion." He stated that the play for the dramatic presentation is near completion, with a performance target date of November 2013. A director and actors must be confirmed. Rollin also announced that there is a Juneteenth celebration scheduled for Saturday, June 15, 2013 in Chapel Hill. This celebration is being presented by the NAACP.

Tenants' Bill of Rights:

Lori reported that Justice United has taken the lead on the Tenants' Bill of Rights. Tish Galu from Justice United was in attendance and stated that she has received feedback on the draft Tenants' Bill of Rights (TBR). The TBR has been tweaked as a result of this feedback. She stated that the TBR addresses issues that tenants have expressed as concerns. She also stated that Justice United is working on compiling a list of housing agencies and resources to include in the TBR. According to Ms. Galu, the Mayor of Chapel Hill recommended that housing providers who distribute the TBR to its tenants should receive recognition akin to the Good Housekeeping seal of approval. It was reported that the TBR cannot be published as a "legal document" or distributed by mandate. The final draft is projected to be completed and ready for presentation to the Board of County Commissioners in early FY 2013-2014.

Pauli Murray Awards:

Gerald reported that he made a presentation to the Alpha Delta Kappa teachers' sorority at their annual meeting on Saturday, May 4, 2013. He introduced the audience to the work of the Orange County Human Relations Commission and presented the sorority with background information on Pauli Murray and the annual Pauli Murray Awards ceremony. Gerald also encouraged the teachers to get their students involved in the annual essay contest. Emma Morris, the 2012 Pauli Murray Youth Award recipient and Third Place Middle School essay contest winner, was present and read her winning essay.

Collateral Consequences:

It was reported that a proposal to the Board of County Commissioners has been drafted. The subcommittee provided a post-meeting update on this proposal via email. A copy of the Durham County Administrative Procedure for conducting employment criminal background checks was distributed to the members by email, accompanied by the draft proposal to the BOCC for the implementation of a similar process. The subcommittee members asserted that the Durham County policy is a good template to use to move beyond the 'ban the box' campaign. The proposal will be reviewed by the members and the members will recommend action.

VII. Advisory Board Guidelines

The members were issued a copy of the Board of County Commissioners' Advisory Board Policy adopted on November 8, 2012. Colin recommended that the members interested in an Officer position should review these guidelines.

VIII. Fair Housing Month

James reported on the success of the Fair Housing Month activities. He also reported that 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which is the framework of the Fair Housing Act of 1968. The members suggested that the 2014 Human Relations Month forum be on the topic of the Civil Rights Act.

IX. Other Business/Announcements:

Rollin presented a list of proposed state legislative actions to the HRC as information. James invited the members to attend Hogg Day on Saturday, May 18, 2013 and distribute fair housing materials. Guest Tish Galu stated that residents in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro area do not have affordable housing options due to the rent increases at Collins Crossing Apartments in Carrboro.

X. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

James E. Davis, Jr.
Civil Rights Specialist