

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

6:30 PM

May 14, 2012

Animal Services Complex

MEMBERS PRESENT			STAFF
Matthew Hughes	Colin Austin	Bryant Colson	James Spivey
Jack Vogt	Shannon Jackson	Christine Kelly-Kleese	
Cynthia Stubbs	Richard Perry	Preston Scott Phillips	
Rollin Russell	Joyce Preslar	Ashley Tittlemore	
Lori Schweickert			

NOTE: James Anderson, Lori Lumpkin, Barbara Marotto, Annette Uhlenberg, and Rita Anita Linger informed staff that they were unable to attend this meeting.

I. MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION WAS MADE BY RICHARD PERRY AND SECONDED BY BRYANT COLSON TO ACCEPT THE APRIL 09, 2012 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. VOTE: AYES 12 (Austin, Colson, Hughes, Jackson, Kelly-Kleese, Perry, Phillips, Preslar, Russell, Stubbs, Tittlemore, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 5 (Anderson, Linger, Lumpkin, Marotto, Uhlenberg); TARDY 1 (Schweickert); ABSENT 3 (Polich, Rosenbluth, Stewart).

II. PROPOSAL: ATTENDANCE AT BOCC MEETINGS

The membership voiced an interest in having an HRC presence at the BOCC meeting. Lori Schweickert submitted a draft proposal for membership review.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ROLLIN RUSSELL AND SECONDED BY PRESTON SCOTT PHILLIPS TO ADOPT THE POLICY AS SUBMITTED. VOTE:

Concern was voiced regarding the formality of the proposed procedure; the lack of more defined process and/or procedure to implement the proposal; the number of BOCC meetings; and which meetings would be attended. After membership discussion, the motion was withdrawn by the maker and seconder.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ROLLIN RUSSELL AND SECONDED BY PRESTON SCOTT PHILLIPS TO 1) COMMEND LORI SCHWEICKERT FOR HER EFFORTS IN DEVELOPING THE PROPOSAL, 2) TO REMOVE THE START DATE OF MAY 29, 2012 FOR THE PROPOSAL; 3) TO FORWARD THE PROPOSAL TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP AN IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP REVIEW. VOTE: AYES 13 (Austin, Colson, Hughes, Jackson, Kelly-Kleese, Perry, Phillips, Preslar, Russell, Schweickert, Stubbs, Tittlemore, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 5 (Anderson, Linger, Lumpkin, Marotto, Uhlenberg); ABSENT 3 (Polich, Rosenbluth, Stewart).

III. UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

A. 2012-2013 OFFICERS BALLOT

James Spivey explained that the ballots were included in this agenda packet but the official voting would transpire at the June 2012 meeting. Mr. Spivey provided an historical review of the ascension process used by the HRC in regarding to the vice-chair and chairmanship of the HRC.

There was discussion about the position of Secretary of the HRC.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JACK VOGT AND SECONDED BY ROLLIN RUSSELL THAT THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE WORK WITH THE HRC CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR TO SELECT A NOMINEE FOR THE POSITION OF HRC SECRETARY. VOTE: 12 (Austin, Colson, Hughes, Jackson, Kelly-Kleese, Phillips, Preslar, Russell, Schweickert, Stubbs, Tittlemore, Vogt); NOES 0; ABSTAIN 1 (Perry); EXCUSED 5 (Anderson, Linger, Lumpkin, Marotto, Uhlenberg); ABSENT 3 (Polich, Rosenbluth, Stewart).

B. APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE HRC

Nine applications from Orange County residents who indicated an interest in serving on the HRC were included in the agenda packet.

Bryant Colson and the Membership Subcommittee are to contact the applicants and extend an invitation to attend an HRC meeting.

C. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

With the BOCC-adopted Advisory Board Policy, the membership reviewed its subcommittee roster. It was decided that the Bylaws Subcommittee and the Ordinance Subcommittee no longer are needed. During a previous meeting, the membership dissolved the Advocacy and Outreach Subcommittee and replaced it with specific-issue and member-interest ad hoc subcommittees.

The Membership Subcommittee added two members: Shannon Jackson and Preston Scott Phillips. It was also agreed that duties of this subcommittee should be amended to include new member orientation, develop the slate of officers, and solicit representation from the under-represented communities.

Two existing specific-issue and member-interest ad hoc subcommittees are the Building Integrated Communities (BIC) Ad Hoc Committee and the Emancipation Proclamation Ad Hoc Committee.

Rollin Russell volunteered to serve on the Human Relations Month Subcommittee.

Ashley Tittlemore volunteered to serve on the Student Essay Contest Subcommittee.

Joyce Preslar volunteered to serve on the Pauli Murray Awards Subcommittee.

D.....FAIR HOUSING WORKSHOPS IN JUNE 2012

James Spivey distributed fliers that announced two (2) *free* fair housing workshops scheduled to take place on June 05, 2012 and June 26, 2012. Mr. Spivey explained that the HRC is a co-sponsor of these fair housing workshops along with Legal Aid of NC, HUD, and the Fair Housing Project.

The *free* fair housing workshops are titled “Fair Housing: Know Your Rights.” Topics to be covered during the workshops are what property is covered under the Fair Housing Act?; What are my rights?; How can I make a complaint?; Who can I contact for help? The targeted audience are renters; homebuyers and homeowners; housing advocates; and anyone who cares about equal access to decent, affordable housing.

One workshop will be held in Northern Orange County and the other in Southern Orange County. These workshops are free; however, advanced registration is preferred. To register, contact Pamela Reynolds via email: preynolds@co.orange.nc.us or telephone: 919-245-2490.

The Southern Orange County workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, June 5, 2012; 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM; in the Orange County Southern Human Services Building located at 2501 Homestead Road Chapel Hill, NC 27516

The Northern Orange County workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, June 26, 2012; 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM; in the Orange County Department of Social Services located at 113 Mayo Street Hillsborough, NC 27278

HRC members are encouraged to attend the workshop that is nearest their respective homes. HRC members are encouraged to register as soon as possible for these workshops.

E.....EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Rollin Russell distributed the following report:

The subcommittee: Bryant Colson, James Anderson, Ashley Tittlemore, and Rollin Russell met briefly following the April 9 meeting and decided to seek a broad base of participation in an initial planning effort, the date for a first meeting depending on the availability of potential participants.

The following contacts were made and responded in the affirmative:

- ✓ Renee Price, Free Spirit Freedom

- ✓ Dr. Hildebrand, UNC faculty
- ✓ Dr. Karen Demby, Sacred Conversations on Race; and Collaborative Committee against Racism
- ✓ Members of our subcommittee

Other contacts were made and have not responded:

US History teachers at Chapel Hill HS and Chapel Hill East

Those who responded have agreed to meet at 7:00 pm on May 23. Location to be determined.

Any others are welcome to join us. Rollin Russell will contact the Orange County Historical Society and Historical Museum personnel.

Do we need to post this date and details per the open meetings policies?

F. BIC SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The following meeting announcement was made:

The next Building Integrated Communities (BIC) meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 2012 at 6:30 PM in the Dogwood Room at the Robert and Pearl Seymour Senior Center. The Senior Center is located at 2551 Homestead Road; Chapel Hill, NC 27516.

G. HOG DAY PARTICIPATION

James Spivey announced that the Town of Hillsborough's Annual Hog Day celebration will take place on Saturday, May 19, 2012 from 9:00 AM until 6:00 PM. Mr. Spivey explained that space had been reserved for the HRC to staff a table during the celebration. He explained that having a table at the celebration is an opportunity to publicize the existence of the HRC, talk about the charge and mission of the HRC, and to possibly solicit members.

Mr. Spivey explained that members who will participate in staffing the table will not have to stay the entire time. He asked that members who are interested in participating send him an email.

H. ELECTION RESULTS: IMPLICATIONS

The members briefly discussed possible implications of the elections results.

With the passage of Amendment 1, members voiced concern that it could negatively impact the HRC's recommendation to the Orange County Legislative Delegation about expanding the discrimination protections in the Civil Rights Ordinance to include *sexual orientation* and *sexual identity*.

It is a great possibility there will be an increase in legal activity statewide due to the passage of Amendment 1.

The HRC discussed re-announcing and/or re-affirming its opposition to Amendment 1; emphasizing the BOCC-adopted Social Justice Goal regarding Orange County residents not being discriminated against.

The membership welcomes the newly elected county commissioners and anticipates them being supportive of and active in the mission of the HRC.

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

adjourned!