

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

REVISED MINUTES

6:30 PM

November 21, 2011

Animal Services Complex

MEMBERS PRESENT		G U E S T	
James Anderson	Colin Austin	Cim Brailer	Judy Truitt
Michael Stewart	Shannon Jackson	Vanessa Neustrom	Donna Prather
Lori Schweickert	Barbara Marotto		
Joyce Preslar	Cynthia Stubbs		
Rollin Russell	Annette Uhlenberg	S T A F F	
Jack Vogt		Tara Fikes	James Spivey

NOTE: *Christine Kelly-Kleese, Matthew Hughes, Rita Anita Linger, Lori Lumpkin, Joseph Polich, Marty Rosenbluth, and Richard Perry informed staff that they were unable to attend this meeting.*

I. MINUTES APPROVAL

Ashley Tittlemore, resident interested in serving on the HRC, was introduced.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ROLLIN RUSSELL AND SECONDED BY JACK VOGT TO ACCEPT THE OCTOBER 10, 2011 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. VOTE: AYES 12 (Anderson, Austin, Colson, Jackson, Marotto, Preslar, Russell, Schweickert, Stewart, Stubbs, Uhlenberg, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 7 (Kelly-Kleese, Hughes, Linger, Lumpkin, Perry, Polich, Rosenbluth); ABSENT 1 (Phillips).

II. JUDY TRUITT, DIRECTOR OF OPC AREA PROGRAM

Judy Truitt, Director of OPC Area Program, with members of her staff – Donna Prather, Cim Brailer, Vanessa Neustrom - provided an overview regarding the housing needs of people suffering with severer to persistent mental illness (SPMI), including autism. Ms. Truitt and her staff reviewed demographic data regarding Orange County residents that receive services from the OPC Area Program; explained existing resources available for Orange County residents who receive services from the OPC Area Program; reviewed the various funding sources of the OPC Area Program; explained the different group living options available to Orange County clients of the OPC Area Program; and distinguished the various forms of severe and persistent mental illness including autism.

Ms. Truitt welcomed any support the HRC could/would provide in the agency's ongoing efforts to provide assistance to Orange County residents who seek/require the services of the OPC Area Program.

Ms. Truitt commended the BOCC for the financial support they have provided consistently to the OPC Area Program. Ms. Truitt explained that there is never enough funding but clarified that comparatively, the OPC Area Program receives excellent funding from its funding sources.

III. HUMAN RIGHTS AND BILL OF RIGHTS PROCLAMATION

MOTION WAS MADE BY MICHAEL STEWART AND SECONDED BY LORI SCHWEICKERT THAT THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ADOPT THE FOLLOWING PROCLAMATION REGARDING BILL OF RIGHTS DAY, HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on December 10, 1948, the member states of the United Nations signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and countries of different political, economic and social systems agreed on the fundamental rights that all people share solely on the basis of their common humanity; and

WHEREAS, Human Rights Day and Human Rights Week were adopted by the United Nations in connection with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights Day was first declared in 1941 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to commemorate the 1791 Ratification of the Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, it was the North Carolina convention, held in Hillsborough, which was instrumental regarding the inclusion of a Bill of Rights as part of ratifying the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights guarantees, among other basic liberties, freedom of speech and of the press as well as freedom of religion and association; and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights states that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law and establishes fundamental rules of fairness in judicial proceedings, including the right to trial by jury; and

WHEREAS, the primary responsibility to promote respect for these rights and freedoms lies with each individual in Orange County, and each of us can play a major role in enhancing human rights; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Orange County support Human Rights and recognize that the “inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace;”

NOW, THEREFORE, We, The Board of County Commissioners of Orange County, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim December 10 – 16, 2011 as HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK and December 10, 2011 as HUMAN RIGHTS DAY and December 15, 2011 as BILL OF RIGHTS DAY in Orange County and challenge residents to study and promote the ideas contained in these documents to the end that freedom, justice, and equality shall not perish but will flourish and be made available to all.

VOTE: AYES 12 (Anderson, Austin, Colson, Hughes, Jackson, Marotto, Phillips, Preslar, Russell, Schweickert, Stewart, Stubbs, Uhlenberg, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 7

(Kelly-Kleese, Hughes, Linger, Lumpkin, Perry, Polich, Rosenbluth); ABSENT 1 (Phillips).

IV. HRC ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOCC

Staff presented a draft report that listed some of the past year accomplishments of the HRC. The membership reviewed and discussed the draft report.

The membership agreed to provide additional electronic input (changes/additions) to the report. Once membership input is received and incorporated into a final draft of the report, staff will submit the report to the full membership for electronic approval.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. ADVOCACY/OUTREACH

Colin Austin proposed a restructuring of this subcommittee. Mr. Austin proposed that smaller ad hoc work groups be established to address specific issues. The smaller ad hoc groups would be populated based upon membership interest, i.e., members interested in a specific issue will/could volunteer to serve on the ad hoc work group. The ad hoc work groups will focus on specific goals, have a time frame, and make reports to the full membership.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COLIN AUSTIN AND SECONDED BY JACK VOGT TO ESTABLISH SMALLER AD HOC WORK GROUPS THAT WILL FOCUS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES TO REPLACE THE ADVOCACY/OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE. VOTE: AYES 12 (Anderson, Austin, Colson, Hughes, Jackson, Marotto, Phillips, Preslar, Russell, Schweickert, Stewart, Stubbs, Uhlenberg, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 7 (Kelly-Kleese, Hughes, Linger, Lumpkin, Perry, Polich, Rosenbluth); ABSENT 1 (Phillips).

B. HUMAN RELATIONS MONTH

Jack Vogt provided an overview of the proposed kick-off event. Mr. Vogt explained that the kick-off will focus on the proposed Amendment 1 (defining *marriage*) to the NC Constitution and the recommendation to amend the Civil Rights Ordinance to include *sexual orientation* and *sexual identity* as protected classes. He explained that consideration of a specific title/theme of the kick-off is ongoing; however, a proposed topic was "How Amendment 1 Effects Your Civil Rights."

Mr. Vogt identified the following as potential panelists: Professor Maxine Eichner of the UNC-CH Law School; Mr Stewart Campbell, Executive Director of Equality North Carolina; Mr. Brett Webb Mitchell, Adjunct Professor at North Carolina Central University and is an ordained Presbyterian minister; and Ms. Tammy Fitzgerald of the North Carolina Values Coalition. Mr. Vogt also stated that Ms. Milan Pham, attorney in

private practice and former director of the Orange County Department of Human Rights and Relations, will serve as moderator.

There was review of a proposed timeline for the program and discussion regarding refreshments/food and entertainment for the event. Joyce Preslar agreed to contact a group to provide entertainment at a minimal fee, if not for free. There was discussion regarding the need for refreshments prior to the event convening and food after the event.

The event is scheduled for Sunday, January 29, 2012 at the Carrboro Century Center from 2:30 PM until 5:00 PM. HRC members are expected to arrive at the Carrboro Century Center by 2:00 PM to serve as hosts for the event.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ROLLIN RUSSELL AND SECONDED BY BRYANT COLSON TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED HUMAN RELATIONS MONTH KICK-OFF EVENT FORMAT. VOTE: AYES 12 (Anderson, Austin, Colson, Hughes, Jackson, Marotto, Phillips, Preslar, Russell, Schweickert, Stewart, Stubbs, Uhlenberg, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 7 (Kelly-Kleese, Hughes, Linger, Lumpkin, Perry, Polich, Rosenbluth); ABSENT 1 (Phillips).

C. PAULI MURRAY AWARDS

Lori Schweickert presented a status report regarding the nominations received. Ms. Schweickert solicited input from the membership regarding business nominations that were received after the submission deadline date. There was concern that accepting this nomination would send the wrong message regarding the submission deadline date.

It was suggested that the subcommittee address the issue of nominations received after the submission deadline date and bring recommendations for the awards to the full membership.

D. STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

There was no report.

E. MEMBERSHIP

Bryant Colson informed the membership that he had contacted the applicants interested in serving on the HRC and extended an invitation for them to attend the HRC meeting.

VI. EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION ANNIVERSARY

Barbara Marotto informed the membership that calendar year 2013 will mark the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Ms. Marotto suggested that the HRC should engage in some activity(ies) to acknowledge this anniversary. She explained that if the HRC is interested in acknowledging the 150th anniversary, the HRC will needs to

make a special monetary request of the BOCC which will be in addition to the BOCC-approved annual HRC budget.

MOTION WAS MADE BY BRYANT COLSON AND SECONDED BY JOYCE PRESLAR TO ESTABLISH A WORK GROUP TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION AND DEVELOP A PROPOSED BUDGET TO COVER ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES FOR THE PLAN. VOTE: AYES 12 (Anderson, Austin, Colson, Hughes, Jackson, Marotto, Phillips, Preslar, Russell, Schweickert, Stewart, Stubbs, Uhlenberg, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 7 (Kelly-Kleese, Hughes, Linger, Lumpkin, Perry, Polich, Rosenbluth); ABSENT 1 (Phillips).

James Anderson, Joyce Presler, Barbara Marotto, and Bryant Colson volunteered to serve on this work group.

VII. SOCIAL JUSTICE GOAL REPORT TO BOCC

Tara Fikes explained that a report is due to the BOCC regarding the Social Justice Goal (SJG). Ms. Fikes explained that when the SJG was adopted, the HRC agreed to provide a report to the BOCC. She solicited input for inclusion in the report to the BOCC.

Some suggestions for inclusion in the report were: the development of the SJG Impact Review Tool (SJGIRT); the SJGIRT was tested on the landfill capacity options proposed by the Solid Waste Management Division; how the life necessity issues of the Roger Road Community aligned with the use of the SJGIRT; and that the SJGIRT should be used more in the decision-making process of the BOCC.

Staff is to draft a report for HRC review and comment.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. DECEMBER 13, 2011

There were questions regarding when HRC items [proclamations: Bill of Rights Day, Human Rights Day, & Human Rights Week; Amendment 1 (defining *marriage*) to the NC Constitution; and the recommendation to amend the Civil Rights Ordinance (designating *sexual orientation* and *sexual identity* as protected classes)] were scheduled for BOCC consideration.

Ms. Fikes explained that the items are currently schedule for December 5th, however, efforts are being made to reschedule the items for BOCC consideration due to a HUD training conference that she and James Spivey have to attend.

Staff was asked to inform the membership when the items would be considered by the BOCC once a decision is made and/or the BOCC agenda has been set.

Barbara Marotto encouraged the membership to attend BOCC meetings whenever there are HRC items on the BOCC agenda.

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

adjourned!