

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

6:30 PM

October 10, 2011

Animal Services Complex

MEMBERS PRESENT			GUEST
James Anderson	Colin Austin	Matthew Hughes	Annette Moore
Christine Kelly-Kleese	Lori Lumpkin	Barbara Marotto	
Michael Stewart	Cynthia Stubbs	Jack Vogt	STAFF
Joyce Preslar	Joseph Polich	Rollin Russell	James Spivey
Lori Schweickert	Richard Perry		

NOTE: Bryant Colson, Shannon Jackson, Annette Uhlenberg, Preston Scott Phillips, and Rita Anita Linger informed staff that they were unable to attend this meeting.

I. MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION WAS MADE BY JACK VOGT AND SECONDED BY JAMES ANDERSON TO ACCEPT THE AUGUST 08, 2011 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. VOTE: AYES 12 (Anderson, Austin, Hughes, Kelly-Kleese, Marotto, Perry, Polich, Preslar, Russell, Stewart, Stubbs, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 5 (Colson, Jackson, Linger, Phillips, Uhlenberg); TARDY 2 (Lumpkin, Schweickert); ABSENT 1 (Rosenbluth).

MOTION WAS MADE BY JACK VOGT AND SECONDED BY RICHARD PERRY TO ACCEPT THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2011 MINUTES WITH NOTED CORRECTIONS. VOTE: AYES 12 (Anderson, Austin, Hughes, Kelly-Kleese, Marotto, Perry, Polich, Preslar, Russell, Stewart, Stubbs, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 5 (Colson, Jackson, Linger, Phillips, Uhlenberg); TARDY 2 (Lumpkin, Schweickert); ABSENT 1 (Rosenbluth).

II. ANNETTE MOORE – AMENDING THE CIVIL RIGHTS ORDINANCE

Annette Moore, Staff Attorney, attended this meeting to provide input/guidance regarding the HRC's interest in amending the Orange County Civil Rights Ordinance to include *sexual orientation* and *sexual identity* as protected classes.

Jack Vogt presented an historical overview of the proposal to amend the Orange County Civil Rights Ordinance to include *sexual orientation* and *sexual identity* as protected classes.

Ms. Moore presented an historical overview of the enactment of the Civil Rights Ordinance; explained prior efforts to get the Ordinance amended to include *sexual orientation* and *sexual identity* as protected classes; distinguished long and short North Carolina Legislative sessions; and provided insight regarding this proposal.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JAMES ANDERSON AND SECONDED BY MICHAEL STEWART THAT THE ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TAKE THE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO AMEND THE ORANGE COUNTY CIVIL RIGHTS ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE *SEXUAL ORIENTATION*

AND *SEXUAL IDENTITY* AS PROTECTED CLASSES AND FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT THIS MATTER BE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA OF ORANGE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION FOR THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION. VOTE: AYES 14 (Anderson, Austin, Hughes, Kelly-Kleese, Lumpkin, Marotto, Perry, Polich, Preslar, Russell, Schweickert, Stewart, Stubbs, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 5 (Colson, Jackson, Linger, Phillips, Uhlenberg); ABSENT 1 (Rosenbluth).

There was discussion regarding Amendment 1 that will appear on the May 08, 2012 North Carolina primary ballot which defines marriage as “between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State. This section does not prohibit a private party from entering into contracts with another private party; nor does this section prohibit courts from adjudicating the rights of private parties pursuant to such contracts.”

MOTION WAS MADE BY ROLLIN RUSSELL AND SECONDED BY CHRISTINE KELLY-KLEESE THAT THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE A RESOLUTION FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ADOPT AND TO GO ON RECORD VOICING OPPOSITION TO A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THAT WOULD DISCRIMINATE AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY BY DENYING THEM THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF MARRIAGE AND/OR CIVIL UNIONS. VOTE: AYES 14 (Anderson, Austin, Hughes, Kelly-Kleese, Lumpkin, Marotto, Perry, Polich, Preslar, Russell, Schweickert, Stewart, Stubbs, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 5 (Colson, Jackson, Linger, Phillips, Uhlenberg); ABSENT 1 (Rosenbluth).

The proposed resolution is to be drafted by James Spivey and reviewed by the Staff Attorney and the Director. Additionally, staff is to provide a list of all the existing Human Relations Commissions in the State. The list will be the first step in making contact with other Commissions and allies to collaboratively address social justice issues statewide.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

Barbara Marotto encouraged subcommittees to be prepared to make reports to the full body prior to the scheduled HRC meeting. Ms. Marotto explained that this request is prompted due the number of agenda items and time constraints.

Ms. Marotto requested that members be mindful of positive communication skills when conveying one’s opinion and/or when responding to someone else’s perspective.

A.....ADVOCACY/OUTREACH

There was discussion regarding the structure and charge of this subcommittee.

Barbara Marotto and Colin Austin are to develop a proposal regarding this matter for HRC review at a future meeting.

B.....HUMAN RELATIONS MONTH

Jack Vogt explained the overall theme of the Human Relations Month Kick-Off will focus on the issues of amending the Civil Rights Ordinance to include *sexual orientation* and *sexual identity* as protected classes and the proposed Amendment 1 to the North Carolina Constitution. Mr. Vogt stated that the program will probably consist of a panel discussion with a question and answer session.

The subcommittee will develop the specific theme and/or topic for the Kick-Off for HRC review/input. Additionally, the subcommittee, with input from the full membership, will suggest panelists.

Michael Stewart and Joyce Preslar volunteered to serve on this subcommittee.

C.....PAULI MURRAY AWARDS

Lori Schweickert reported that Diali Cissokho has been contacted to provide entertainment during the Awards Ceremony. Ms. Schweickert had questions regarding a stipend amount to offer Mr. Cissoko and the overall budget for the event.

James Spivey will get the budget information to Ms. Schweickert. Mr. Spivey also informed the membership that no nominations had been received for the 2011 Pauli Murray Awards.

Members were encouraged to publicize the event and solicit nominations for the awards.

The membership decided that the event will take place on Sunday, February 26, 2012 from 3 to 5 PM at The Little Theater at New Hope Elementary School.

Cynthia Stubbs and Joseph Polich volunteered to serve on this subcommittee.

D.....STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

Richard Perry gave a status report stating that information regarding the student essay contest has been distributed to the public middle and high schools in Orange County. Additionally, the membership was asked to make monetary donations to ensure the monetary awards to the students will continue.

V. NEW BUSINESS

I.....SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Rollin Russell, Michael Stewart, and Joyce Preslar volunteered to serve on the Human Relations Month subcommittee.

Cynthia Stubbs, and Joseph Polich volunteered to serve on the Pauli Murray Awards subcommittee.

Cynthia Stubbs and Joseph Polich volunteered to serve on the Student Essay Contest subcommittee.

2.....APPLICANTS TO THE HRC

Bryant Colson will extend an invitation to the applicants to attend an HRC meeting prior to the membership making a recommendation to the BOCC.

3.....HRC ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOCC

The membership was asked to review the 2010 HRC Annual Report to the BOCC and to be prepared to provide input for the 2011 HRC Annual Report at the November HRC meeting.

4.....SOCIAL JUSTICE GOAL (SJG) & SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPACT REVIEW TOOL (SIGIRT)

The membership was asked to review these documents and to be prepared to provide input for the report that is to be submitted to the BOCC regarding these documents.

5.....SUPPORT TO THE ORANGE COUNTY RAPE CRISIS CENTER

The membership agreed to support the Silent Auction of the Rape Crisis Center. The Auction is scheduled for Sunday, December 4, 2011 at the Sheraton Chapel Hill Hotel, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

6.....150 ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

Barbara Marotto informed the membership that the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation is next year. Ms. Marotto asked that the membership consider the possibility of “doing something” and the budgetary implications of “doing something” to acknowledge the anniversary. She suggested that this matter be an agenda item in November.

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

adjourned!