



**Orange County Human Relations Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**Monday, October 14, 2013**  
**Orange County Animal Services Building Conference Room**

M E M B E R S P R E S E N T			STAFF
Marc Xavier	Jamie Paulen	Joe Polich	James Davis
Monica Richard	Christine Kelly-Kleese	Joyce Preslar	
Robert Ireland	Matthew Hughes		
G U E S T S			
Nicole Accordino			

*Absent: Li-Chen Chin, Natalie Wu, Cynthia Stubbs, Preston Scott Phillips, Rollin Russell, and Gerald Ponder*

**I. Call To Order**

Chair Christine Kelly-Kleese called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

**II. Introductions**

Christine welcomed new member Monica Richard to the board. Commission members introduced themselves.

**III. Guest Speaker – Nicole Accordino**

Nicole Accordino, from Transplanting Traditions Community Farm, presented information about her organization and the services it provides to the refugee community. Transplanting Traditions is a non-profit educational farm. It is in its 4<sup>th</sup> program year and currently serves 32 refugee families. Nicole explained that while the core service of the farm is to provide refugees with land to grow their preferred vegetables at an affordable cost, the farm has grown to become a safe gathering space for the refugee community, particularly the Karen community. It is during such gatherings when the refugee community discusses issues unrelated to farming, such as the safety and housing issues discussed with HRC member Scott Phillips and staff James Davis during their recent visit to the farm. The farm has also added an element of job training for the teens by teaching them how to manage the Friday market, including customer service and cashier duties. Nicole stated that the farm no longer receives money through a refugee farmer's grant and they will be doing a program assessment to determine the future mission of the farm. During this assessment, Nicole will inform the HRC how the two entities may become collaborative partners.

**IV. Minutes**

Robert made a motion to accept the September 9, 2013 minutes. Jamie seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**V. County Updates**

Joyce announced that she will attend the BOCC meeting on October 15, 2013. Joe and Rollin are scheduled to attend the November 5, 2013 meeting. Christine will re-send the meeting sign-up sheet to the members.

## **VI. Subcommittee Updates**

### *Executive Committee:*

It was reported that there are four (4) vacancies on the HRC. The members reviewed the applications of Ms. Dominika Baran, Ms. Angel Kent and Ms. Doris Brunson. Jamie made a motion to recommend Ms. Baran to the BOCC for appointment. Monica seconded the motion. The members suggested that James follow up with Ms. Kent to determine whether she remains interested in joining the HRC. The recommendations of Ms. Kent and Ms. Brunson will be discussed during the November 11, 2013 meeting.

### *Building Integrated Communities:*

No report.

### *Emancipation Proclamation/Human Relations Month:*

Joyce reported that the process of presenting the dramatization based on the literary works of George Moses Horton has proven to be more difficult than expected. She is working with a teacher at Culbreth Middle School to determine whether the play could be used as a class project. There was discussion on whether the subcommittee should change its name to the Special Events or the Outreach Subcommittee. It was explained that changing the name would eliminate the need to use marque events and milestones, such as the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, as the subcommittee names. The members will vote on a name change after receiving input from Rollin.

### *Tenants' Bill of Rights:*

It was presented that Justice United wants to present the final Declaration of Tenants' Rights to the BOCC for endorsement on Tuesday, November 5, 2013. The members reviewed the document and recommended amendments in the formatting, including font size. It was also noted that some of the websites listed on the Resource List were erroneous. Joe will make these changes in the document and present the same to Justice United. Robert made a motion for the HRC to endorse the document, as amended, as a reference tool for tenants. Joe seconded the motion. Joe also agreed to present the document to the BOCC on November 5, 2013 on behalf of the HRC. The members discussed whether the document should be translated in Spanish as well as other languages. There will be further discussion on this matter after the document has been presented to the BOCC.

### *Pauli Murray Awards:*

The subcommittee requested the members to urge their colleagues to consider submitting a nomination for worthy candidates. Christine reported that she expects two (2) of her colleagues to submit a nomination.

*Essay Contest:*

Joe reported that he is working with approximately 150 middle school students through the UNC College of Law. The focus is on the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Through this effort, Joe asserts that there may be an increase in the number of middle school essay submissions. The subcommittee may recruit additional essay readers and judges to meet this increase.

*Poster Contest*

James reported that all public and private elementary schools in Orange County have received a copy of the essay contest rules and information.

*Collateral Consequences:*

Joe presented an update on the recent listening session hosted at the Hargraves Center. This was an opportunity to gather information from the affected community on issues that may be presented to the HRC.

**VII. Women's Commission**

It was presented that the BOCC is considering the re-establishment of a Women's Commission. The members discussed whether a subcommittee should be added that would address the issues that a Women's Commission would address. Christine will keep the Commission informed of developments.

**VIII. Other Business/Announcements**

Christine presented information about the Rape Crisis Center's annual fund raising event.

**X. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

James E. Davis, Jr.,  
Civil Rights Specialist