



Orange County Human Relations Commission
Minutes
Monday, September 9, 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	Rollin Russell	Tara L. Fikes
Cynthia Stubbs	Christine Kelly-Kleese	Preston Scott Phillips	
Robert Ireland	Gerald Ponder		
G U E S T S			
Flicka Bateman	Cheryl Young		

Absent: Matthew Hughes, Joe Polich, Joyce Preslar, Li-Chen Chin, Natalie Wu

I. Call To Order

Chair Christine Kelly-Kleese called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Introductions

Christine welcomed everyone to the meeting including Assistant County Manager Cheryl Young. Commission members introduced themselves.

III. Guest Speaker – Flicka Bateman

Flicka Bateman, Director of the Refugee Support Center shared that the Center is currently housed in donated space at the Carolina Apartments Office Building from 1 – 5 pm daily. The Center provides referral information regarding such services as transportation and medical resources. She also shared the history of the settlement of the Karen and Burma population in the US and in Orange County. The Center has been able to form many partnerships in the community with such organizations as the UNC Southeast Asia Club and the school systems to address the needs of this population. She spoke specifically of their experiences receiving services from Health Department and the Social Services Department. Tara agreed to follow up with the Social Services regarding the availability of applications for Medicaid and Food Stamps in Karen and Burmese.

Commission members discussed their interest in having someone from the refugee community serve on the Human Relations Commission. Jamie indicated that she had a friend that she could encourage to apply.

Everyone thanked Ms. Bateman for her attendance and willingness to share her experiences with this refugee community. She encouraged the Commission to continue to keep in touch with the Center as it continues to move towards obtaining its 501c3 status.

IV. Minutes

It was noted that Natalie and Joy should have been included as present for the August 12 meeting. Rollin made a motion to accept the August 12, 2013 minutes as amended. Scott seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

V. County Updates

Christine encouraged Commission members to check the online calendar to sign-up for attendance at upcoming Board of County Commission meetings.

VI. Subcommittee Updates

Executive Committee:

Christine reported that there are currently five (5) vacancies on the Commission. Rollin indicated that he had two people that had expressed an interest and he would follow up with them. The appointment of a Carrboro representative is also expected soon. Christine stated that current applicants to the Commission would be invited to attend a Commission regular meeting.

Building Integrated Communities:

Scott stated that he has plans to follow-up with the Chapel Hill Police Department regarding some safety concerns he has heard from the Karen/Burmese community. He also plans to talk with representatives of Church World Service (CWS) – a refugee settlement agency.

Emancipation Proclamation/Human Relations Month:

Rollin invited the members to attend the showing of the film “Race: The Power of an Illusion” on October 12, 19, and 26, 2013, respectively. Each showing is from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the main library in Hillsborough. It is expected that the dramatization on the life of George Moses Horton will be produced by a student group. The subcommittee does not intend to present the dramatization before the end of the calendar year. The committee has also discussed sponsoring another Community Read with two books – *12 Years a Slave* and *My Black Family – White Privilege*.

Tenants’ Bill of Rights:

Bob reported that the Tenants’ Bill of Rights should be completed at the group’s next meeting on Wednesday, September 11, 2013. It was recommended that the Orange County Human Relations Commission should be added to the list of “Prepared By” list.

Pauli Murray Awards:

The committee recommends approval of the awards criteria and nomination forms for the coming year’s awards and encouraged Commission members to identify nominees and encourage community members to submit nominations forms. The Commission approved this recommendation unanimously on a motion by Rollin seconded by Scott.

Essay Contest:

The subcommittee made the following recommendations: the prize awards would remain the same and the due date would be 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 13, 2013 for mail or in-person deliveries and Tuesday, December 17th for electronic submissions. Additionally, the essay topic statements will be finalized by Joe or Jamie and Bob will wordsmith the high school prompt. On a motion by Gerald seconded by Rollin, the submission guidelines of the Essay Contest with the discussed edits were approved unanimously.

Poster Contest

The subcommittee has reviewed the details of the Contest and proposes the following: the Contest should be listed as the 2013 Contest and it should be available for 4th and 5th graders. It was also recommended to change the due date to Friday, November 22, 2013. These recommendations were approved unanimously on a motion by Bob and seconded by Gerald Ponder.

Collateral Consequences:

No report.

VII. State Legislative Updates

Rollin presented another version of a memo to the Board of County Commissioners regarding proposed legislative amendments. Some editing suggestions were made regarding the letter content and Rollin will prepare another draft for review.

VIII. Women's Commission

The re-establishment of a Women's Commission was not discussed at the September 5th BOCC Meeting as scheduled. The Commission will be kept informed of developments.

X. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Tara L. Fikes, Director