



Meeting Minutes  
 Tuesday, March 25, 2025  
 6:00pm – 7:30 pm  
 Solid waste Conference Room

Member	Role	Attendance
<b>Commissioners</b>		
<b>Jemm Merritt (JM)</b>	Commissioner, Chair	Excused
<b>Rhian Carreker-Ford (RCF)</b>	Commissioner, Vice Chair	Present
<b>Tonya Jones, (TJ)</b>	Commissioner, Secretary	Present
<b>Jen Sykes (JS)</b>	Commissioner	Absent
<b>Josh Ravitch (JR)</b>	Commissioner	Excused
<b>Alex Fowler (AF)</b>	Commissioner	Present
<b>Cory Hogans (CH)</b>	Commissioner	Present
<b>Shane Lukas (SL)</b>	Commissioner	Present
<b>Orange County Staff</b>		
<b>Paul Slack (PS)</b>	Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer	Present
<b>Courtney McLaughlin (CM)</b>	Community Engagement & Outreach Coordinator	Present

- I. Call to Order – Commissioner Jones, Secretary called meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.
- II. Blackwood Farms (6:15p-7:00p) – Peter Sandbeck of the Historic Preservation presented a slide show and research information to the commission about the graves that are located at the farm. Looking to collaborate with the HRC and other boards to erect markers at the site.
- III. Agenda Approval – Motion to approve by Commission Jones, Second by Commissioner Hogans, Unanimous Approval. Minutes approved.
- IV. **County Updates -OCOEI Staff (7:00p--7:15p) Paul Slack & Courtney McLaughlin**
  - A.** Youth Leadership Program Information session April 17, 2025, 6:00p-6:45p Solid Waste Center
  - B.** Poetry Event scheduled for April 26, 2025, 6:00p-8:30p at Eno River Mill
  - C.** Office will undergo a name change to Human Relations and Civil Rights; Fair Housing will be back in the office
- V. **Executive Committee Report- Rhian Carreker-Ford (7:15-7:20)**
  - A.** As of today, there are 2 student entries and no adults or business submissions
  - B.** Commissioner Carreker-Ford recommended that each commissioner nominate an adult and a business before 4/1/25
- VI. **Sub-Committee Reports (7:20-7:25)**
  - A. Strategic Advisory Nominations and Governance: Co-Chairs Josh & Alex**
    - i No Updates
  - B. Outreach & Engagement: Chair Rhian**
    - i. No Updates
  - C. Community Events: Co-Chairs Tonya & Corey**
    - i Pauli Murray Award - May 18, 2025, 3:00p  
Confirmation of location needed  
Speaker reached out to decline due to family medical issue; will reach out to PM Center  
DJ and Caterer quotes have been submitted to the office
- VII. Other Business/Announcements
- VIII. Adjourn: Commissioner Jones moved to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Hogans second,

unanimous approval to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at

Bonnie R. Davis Center (1020 US70 West, Hillsborough, NC 27278)

