



City of Greensboro

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

April 9, 2014

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) convened for its regular monthly meeting at 11:45 a.m. on the above date in the City Council Chamber on the 2nd floor of the Melvin Municipal Office Building with Interim Chair Janice Reaves presiding.

PRESENT: Interim Chair Janice Reaves; Commissioners Margaret Arbuckle, Kurt Collins, Gary Grandon, Paul Ksieniewicz, Chantale Wesley-Lamin, Gale Murphy, Michael Picarelli, Clarence Shuford, and Kevin Williams; Executive Director Dr. Love Crossling; HRD¹ Staff Allen Hunt, Lee Staton, and Donna Gray

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Commissioners Adam Marshall and Tonya Doane

ABSENT: Commissioner Jean Brown

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VISITORS: None

Interim Chair Reaves called the meeting to order; and a moment of silence was observed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 5, 2014 – Commissioner Wesley-Lamin made a motion to accept the Minutes as presented. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote by Commissioners the motion carried to accept the Minutes of the March 5, 2014 HRC Meeting.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR: There was no report.

STAFF REPORT: Before diverted to Allen Hunt for a few items, Dr. Crossling thanked the Commissioners who have agreed to work on the Programming & Planning Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Hunt addressed the following:

- Secretaries of Committees
- Committee Chair reports;
- Commissioner bios, resumes, etc. to identify best roles for Commissioners
- New activity within the Commission
- A Program Planning Guide
- Robert's Rules of Order – being recognized by Chair for the floor, etc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Complaint Review Committee (CRC) – Commissioner Shuford: The CRC reviewed two (2) cases in today's meeting. One (1) case was returned to the Chief for further review. The CRC agreed with the findings of the second case, and will send a letter to the complainant.

Education Committee – Commissioner Picarelli: No report. Interim Chair Reaves asked if the committee needs to be revamped and add members. Commissioner Picarelli is compiling a report that he will turn in for staff to go through. He asked the staff for any remaining notes from some of the other members who were active under the previous administration. Mr. Hunt responded that there are some documents that reference activity, although they may not adequately reflect the efforts of the Committee Chair, Commissioner Picarelli. Later in the meeting, there was discussion of the infusion project at Hairston Middle School, Guilford Parent Academy, *Win-Win Resolutions*, etc. Commissioner Picarelli stated that he is to complete a full report in the event that he, as a new member of the State's Human Relations Commission, will be able to stay on this HRC. He is waiting for clarification from the state as to what he can and cannot do. It was noted that *Win-Win* is being folded into the programs with the YWCA.



Human Services Committee: Interim Chair Reaves asked for a volunteer to chair this committee as planning for the annual MLK Memorial Breakfast should begin soon. She offered to assist anyone who takes it on. Dr. Crossling added that the staff will play a significant role in supporting also. Commissioner Murphy will co-chair the committee with Interim Chair Reaves. Dr. Crossling asked that the invitation to co-chair be extended to the Commissioners who were not present. Commissioner Picarelli added that the state also has an MLK committee, with 2 appointees from Guilford County who serve on it. He will find out if, and what kind of, support they can provide.

International Advisory Committee (IAC) – Mr. Awan: Mr. Awan has been working with individual organizations in Greensboro which work with immigrants and refugees; e.g., World Relief and FaithAction International. Both are excited about becoming members of the IAC. Upcoming events include:

- May 3rd – Downtown Unity Walk and Immigration Reform event on Saturday; participants gather at FaithAction at 4:30.
- May 3rd – also is the Children’s Book Celebration at Central Library from 1 to 4:30 p.m.
- April 16th – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. ‘Drop the I word’ at Elon University;
- April 23rd – Strangers to Neighbors dialogue – Building Bridges of Trust through soccer on Wednesday from 6 – 8 p.m. and hosted by the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3906 W. Friendly Ave.
- April 25th – Faithaction ID Orientation Drive on at First Presbyterian Church, 706 N. Greene Street, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Interim Chair Reaves asked that all Commissioners receive a list of IAC activities in order to support. Mr. Hunt will e-mail the list of events. It was recommended that Mr. Awan, IAC Committee Chair, contact the League of Women Voters as a resource for the group.

Montgomery/Wells (M/W) Housing Committee – Commissioner Ksieniewicz: No report.

Programming and Planning Ad Hoc Committee – Commissioner Grandon: Report provided. Commissioner Grandon read the report (see attached). There was discussion of the Report’s references to the Guilford County Schools, Guilford Parent Academy, the Guilford Education Alliance, and the Parents Supporting Parents Ad Hoc Committee. The latter group is lead by Lissa Harris and Linda Mozell. It was noted that the Committee Report had not been circulated to those who attended, and may be amended and re-submitted.

Interim Chair Reaves apologized for the omission of the Employment Committee under ‘Committee Reports’ after it was brought to her attention.

Employment Committee – Commissioner Williams: No report.

Interim Chair Reaves thanked Councilwoman Marikay Abuzuaiter, the HRC Liaison, for always supporting the Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioners discussed holding the next regular HRC Meeting in the community after 5 p.m. After lengthy discussion, Commissioner Arbuckle made a motion to change the May meeting to 5:30 in the afternoon on the first Monday in May. Commissioner Wesley-Lamin seconded the motion. The Interim Chair called for questions. Discussion continued on changing the time, the Ordinance, and making a permanent change to the meeting time. Dr. Crossling stated that an e-mail will be sent with an elaborate clarification of what the stipulations are regarding meeting times no later than Wednesday of next week. Following additional suggestions/recommendations, Commissioner Arbuckle amended her motion to include that the meeting is held in a community location identified by the staff as available on Monday, May 5th at 5:30 in the afternoon. It was decided that the 5th would be too soon. Commissioner Arbuckle again amended her motion to meet in the community on Monday, May 12th at 6:30 p.m. Commissioners voted unanimously, and the motion carried.



Interim Chair Reaves has appointed a Chair for a Nominating Committee to bring back nominations for HRC Chair and Vice Chair for the next HRC Roster year. Commissioner Wesley-Lamin has agreed to do that. Commissioners are encouraged to work with her.

ACKNOWLEDGE ABSENCES

Excused Absences were acknowledged.

Question was raised as to where to find activities for teens. Dr. Crossling recommended the Youth Services website. Activities are coming from the Youth Community Engagement Committee which was formed. Invitations to work with the committee have been extended to both the HRC and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Meeting dates of the committee and other information will be shared with Commissioners. It was noted that not all of the activities are City sponsored.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ksieneiwicz made a motion to adjourn; it was seconded by Commissioner Grandon. The meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

Chairperson
Greensboro Human Relations Commission

Approved: _____
Date