



**Greensboro Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2022**

The Human Rights Commission convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 pm on the above date on a Zoom Conference Call with Chair Douglas Bender presiding.

Commissioners Present: Douglas Bender, Bob Kollar, Sue Polinsky, Ivan Cutler, Akeylah Campbell, Shon Smith, Kentia Smith

Commissioners Absent: none

Human Relations Department Staff: Jodie Stanley, Love Jones, Liz Lennon

Legal Department Staff:

Council Liaison: Marikay Abuzuaiter

Council Representative:

Visitors: Melody

Call to Order

Chair Doug Bender called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

I. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Bender noted a slight change in the agenda, having moved the election up to allow for some who needed to leave early to participate in the election. Bender called for a moment of silent meditation.

Committee Reports

Chair Report

Chair Bender noted that it was a bittersweet moment, as it was his last meeting as chair and commissioners. As usual, he had been immersed in community engagement efforts to further human rights work in Greensboro. He had chatted earlier that day with a woman who wanted to start a Human Relations Commission in New Bern and noted the importance of connection with other leaders across the state who were engaged in similar work. He expressed his support for the work of Sue Polinsky and Kentia Smith on the Let's Talk Law series, sharing his hope that the Let's Talk Law series could turn into the Let's Talk series, branching out into other topics in the future.

Bender also shared that he'd been active with the MLK day production and believed that all would be proud of the final product. He had also been volunteering with the Community Sustainability Council to ensure that the conversation around sustainability and equity didn't get lost in the shuffle. He was also serving as a commissioner on the Cultural Affairs Commission and while he was excited about the work they would accomplish, he was so thankful for all of the commissions for their energy and hard work, and expressed thanks to staff for their support and guidance. He finished with gratitude for Marikay Abuzuaiter for being an excellent, committed council liaison.

Bender expressed desire to support the work of the HRC in the future.

Election

Commissioner Sue Polinsky nominated Commissioner Shon Smith as Chair. Commissioner Shon Smith accepted the nomination. All unanimously agreed that Commissioner Shon Smith should be elected as the Chair. Bender congratulated Smith.

Commissioner Bob Kollar shared that while he was happy to serve as vice chair, he was delighted to nominate Kentia Smith as Vice Chair. Commissioner Kentia Smith accepted the nomination. All unanimously agreed that Kentia Smith should be elected as the Vice Chair.

Education Committee

Commissioner Sue Polinsky provided an update on the next Let's Talk Law series, for February 3, which would be the session on Probation, Parole and Plea Bargains featuring FJ Carney and Sharon Dunmore. March 3 session was entitled "Can They Do That?" led by an Elon professor who had an extensive background in 4th amendment search and seizure laws and policies. April's session would focus on immigration, though they would need to figure out what to focus on. May's session would focus on Transgender Rights in partnership with TTF and Melvy Shaw with Guilford Green. Melvy had already been very helpful in identifying a potential speaker, as well as providing general language to use. They also covered policies that were underway.

The planning committee had also brainstormed about how to expand the series in the future, covering health or perhaps money and finances. Polinsky noted that she would be reaching out to commissioners for their feedback on future sessions.

Employment Committee

Commissioner Akeylah Campbell was not present.

Human Services and Social Equity Committee

Commissioner Kentia Smith organized the homeless memorial, December 21 as the winter solstice and a time to honor and memorialize the 60 homeless people they'd lost that year. If anyone wanted to volunteer or donate to an upcoming effort - on January 26 around 7 pm, they would be counting clients needing services until about 5 am the following morning.

Chair Bender expressed his admiration for all of the work that she was able to accomplish every month.

Montgomery-Wells Housing Committee

Commissioner Bob Kollar shared that he didn't have anything to report at this time.

International Advisory Committee

Jodie Stanley shared that their most recent event focused on mental health and homelessness which was especially challenging for non-English speakers. They hoped to make some progress in addressing these issues.

Staff Report:

Dr. Love Jones shared her appreciation for Chair Bender's incredible leadership during his tenure as chair.

Jones shared that the MLK program for this year was outstanding. The committee's hard work was evident. The production would air on January 17 at 9 am, and would feature Nikki Giovanni.

She also shared about an exciting partnership with The Poetry Project, a civic engagement series geared towards people 10-18 called Voices of Change. Once a month, young people would hear from our bodies to get a better understanding of why they were serving as commissioners, exploring topics like what it meant to be black in Greensboro, experiences of women in Greensboro, and more. The goal was to empower young people with information and get them excited about getting involved. After each informational workshop, the students would then create work and showcase their work at an event later that month.

Jones noted that the meeting schedule would be important to discuss. With the new variant, the likelihood of convening in person was low. However, they could still explore the option of getting together on a quarterly basis with all other bodies. Some bodies were open to allowing the quarterly meeting to happen during their meeting, others were reticent about offering up their monthly meetings because they needed them to conduct meetings. Polinsky asked if the quarterly meetings would replace theirs, or be in addition to their monthly meetings. Love agreed that the concern was valid, so staff would provide a calendar providing multiple options.

Jones introduced all to Liz Lennon, the department's new Commissions Administrator, who had a long background with the City and with the Parks and Recreation Department. She had extensive experience with volunteer bodies as well, was very savvy and had great ideas. Jones thanked Stanley for supporting the department in the interim and being a team player to ensure that commissions were supported.

Liz Lennon shared that she was excited to get to know commissioners and work with them. She shared again that she had a strong background in supporting volunteer bodies and organizing outreach events.

Chair Bender welcomed Lennon, stating that he believed the commission was poised to accomplish some really great things in 2022.

Meeting Minutes:

Motion to Accept December 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion 1: Bob Kollar

Motion 2: Sue Polinsky

Unanimous approval

Absences:

Chair Bender shared that Zanzella Savoy had resigned due to personal reasons. He asked Council Member Marikay Abuzuaiter to support him in his efforts to get more people identified and appointed to the Commission. Dr. Love Jones also encouraged commissioners to encourage people they knew to apply and submit interest forms. Commissioner Polinsky asked if there was a limit to the number of people who could serve from each district. Jones replied yes, there were a number of stipulations that complicated the process and the number of people that could serve from each district.

Chair Bender invited Marikay Abuzuaiter to share her thoughts before closing the meeting. Abuzuaiter shared her gratitude for the work Bender had poured into the role of Chair, noting various outreach events and projects the commission had taken on in the past year, highlighting the name change as well. She thanked him for the legacy he was leaving.

Commissioner Polinsky shared that she had a new piece of business, a concern that she wanted to bring forward. As many knew there was an anti-Semitic flyer circulated and the City in general responded, as did the Police Department and others. She expressed frustration with the lack of response from the Human Rights Commission itself. She expressed a desire to better understand the process when it came to communications processes. She suggested that it could perhaps be an agenda item in the future.

Dr. Jones thanked Polinsky for her candid question and expressed appreciation for her concern. She shared that they followed the normal protocol that was used for responses in the past, because the messaging itself didn't rest on a commission or department. There was a division called Race GSO that usually headed up the process of public statements, and the department was a supporting partner as they had been in the past. Because this body was such a critical voice for the community, Jones suggested that it might be possible to alter existing protocols to ensure that there was more involvement from the commissioners with future statements.

Polinsky shared that she was simply disappointed, she would have loved to see it circulated to all of the commissioners. She understood the City was complicated and approvals were needed on every level.

Commissioner Kollar shared that anytime he did work, he would consider who needed to know.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn

Motion 1: Sue Polinsky

Motion 2: Bob Kollar

Unanimous approval

Chair Bender adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Approved: _____
Chairperson
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

_____ Date



Greensboro Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2022

The Human Rights Commission convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 pm on the above date on a Zoom Conference Call with Chair Shon Smith presiding.

Commissioners Present: Akeylah Campbell, Shon Smith, Kentia Smith, Brenda Bishop, Brittany Jackson

Commissioners Absent: Sue Polinsky, Ivan Cutler, Bob Kollar

Human Relations Department Staff: Love Jones, Liz Lennon

Council Liaison: None

Visitors: None

Call to Order

Chair Shon Smith called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

I. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Smith thanked everyone for attending and then proceeded with a moment of silence and meditation.

Chair's Report

Chair Smith thanked everyone for submitting their reports and informed members that if no information or activities were gathered from the previous month it is still ok to present as "no report ". Chair Smith then motioned to adopt minutes and the motion was accepted first by Co-chair Kentia Smith and then seconded by Commissioner Akeylah Campbell.

Chair Smith proceeded to ask the commissioners and staff to introduce themselves and share a little about their committee. All commissioners and staff present responded with the exception of Commissioner Brittany Jackson.

Education Committee

Commissioner Kentia Smith spoke on behalf of Sue Polinsky's absences due to her working with her on the "Let's Talk Series" and how the planning process is going. She mentioned continuing to partner with speakers within the community for the upcoming series.



Employment Committee

Commissioner Akeylah Campbell had no information to report.

Human Services and Social Equity Committee

Commissioner Kentia Smith mentioned currently working on the Federal Point Count for the unsheltered. This is a federal project and as of now, she has dropped off 30 surveys with the hopes of getting an accurate count. Commissioner Smith mentioned the intention of this count is to receive a more accurate count of the unsheltered to provide more resources.

Montgomery-Wells Housing Committee

Commissioner Bob Kollar was not present to report. Dr. Love mentioned that the co-chair position for this committee was vacant.

International Advisory Committee

Commissioner Liana Adrong was not present to report.

Staff Report:

Commissions Administrator Liz Lennon updated committee members on the February timeline and deliverables created for all commissioners and committee members to follow regarding administrative steps. This timeline includes a program plan proposal and monthly deliverables.

Dr. Love Jones shared the current planning process for the Fair Housing luncheon and encouraged members of the committee who are interested in the planning process to join the next meeting. She mentioned that Jodie will send invites out to those interested in meeting. Dr. Jones also discussed commissions meeting in person again and 2022 retreat information. She shared the model that Liz will work on to present this information in an upcoming HRC meeting.

Meeting Minutes:

Motion to Accept January 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion 1: Kentia Smith

Motion 2: Akeylah Campbell

Unanimous approval

Absences:

Chair Smith mentioned that due to acknowledging absences earlier in the meeting the absences needed no further discussion.



Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn

Motion 1: Kentia Smith

Motion 2: Akeylah Campbell

Unanimous approval

Chair Bender adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Approved: _____
Chairperson

Date _____

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Greensboro Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2022

The Human Rights Commission convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 pm on the above date on a Zoom Conference Call with Chair Shon Smith presiding.

Commissioners Present: Shon Smith, Kentia Smith, Brenda Bishop, Susan Polinsky, Bob Kollar

Commissioners Absent: Ivan Cutler, Akeylah Campbell, Brittany Jackson, Liana Adrong

Human Relations Department Staff: Love Jones, Liz Lennon

Council Liaison: None

Visitors: Chair Toussaint Romain

Call to Order

Chair Shon Smith called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

I. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Smith thanked everyone for attending and then proceeded with a moment of silence and meditation.

Chair's Report

Chair Smith acknowledged Chair Toussaint Romain of the NC Human Relations Commission as the featured visitor and yielded the floor. Chair Romain thanked the commission for the invitation and presented information regarding the Human Rights Resolution, mental health, wellbeing, and the GHRC and how NCHRC can be of assistance

Chair Romain shared the current Human Rights resolution that is circulating across the state and asked to share some of the current situations in NC that include the housing needs, which has left half a million NC residents who need access to affordable housing unable to receive it. The state has a shortage of affordable rental housing. Chair Romain shared his experience in witnessing the hundreds of residents on a tent ground (tent city) a little outside of Mecklenburg County that lost homes due to the Covid pandemic. He mentioned this being a human issue not a state issue and has great hopes that the resolution will inform commissioners of this issue and how residents who fall under this category can continue to fight for their rights through tenant laws.



Education Committee

The report was not provided due to time constraints.

Employment Committee

Commissioner Akeylah Campbell was absent.

Human Services and Social Equity Committee

The report was not provided due to constraints

Montgomery-Wells Housing Committee

This position is vacant.

International Advisory Committee

Commissioner Liana Adrong was absent.

Staff Report:

Commissions Administrator Liz Lennon briefly shared the quarterly meeting proposal as well as upcoming HRD retreat information.

Meeting Minutes:

Motion to Accept January 2022 Meeting Minutes

No quorum to vote.

Absences:

Absences were not discussed due to time constraints.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn

No quorum to vote.

Approved: _____
Chairperson

Date _____





Greensboro Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2022

The Human Rights Commission convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 pm on the above date on a Zoom Conference Call with Chair Shon Smith presiding.

Commissioners Present: Shon Smith, Kentia Smith, Susan Polinsky, Akeylah Campbell, Ivan Cutler

Commissioners Absent: Brenda Bishop, Brittany Jackson, Liana Adrong, Bob Kollar

Human Relations Department Staff: Liz Lennon

Council Liaison: None

Visitors: Ryan Jacobs, Drekwon Fulton, Teresa Barron, Margaret Jewell, Haley Payton, Isabelle Galang,

Call to Order

Chair Shon Smith called the meeting to order at **6:05 pm**.

I. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Smith thanked everyone for attending and then proceeded with a moment of silence and meditation.

Chair's Report

Chair Smith asked visitors to share their names and then processed that there was no report to share.

New Business

Chair Smith asked Commissions Administrator Liz Lennon if there is any new business to present and/or vote on. Liz mentioned the HRC Resolution presented by Chair Romaine in March's meeting is an item to be voted upon. Chair Smith asked if there is a copy available and Liz mentioned that she has not been provided with a copy and suggested that Chair Smith table the discussion for the next meeting. Chair Smith agreed to table the discussion for the next meeting.

Education Committee

Commissioner Polinsky mentioned the "Let's Talk Law" series for **April 14 session**. The topic will be "My Gender Rights" with featured speakers Sarah Saint, an attorney with Brooks Pierce, and Flex Jones, chair of the City's Transgender Task Force. Commissioner Polinsky also mentioned



planning the upcoming Let's Talk series for the fall-spring of 2022-2023 as well as creating a survey for the HRC commission to take to assist with selecting topics for the series.

Employment Committee

Commissioner Akeylah Campbell shared that she did not have information to report.

Human Services and Social Equity Committee

Commissioner Kentia Smith shared working with the CSW to release their survey in regards to the 2022 Women Survey in Greensboro but from a homeless perspective and provided the survey to different shelters that house women and feels it was successful. She also mentioned working with Jodie Stanley and the HRD Fair Housing Luncheon and hosting a table on Family Structure and Discrimination. Commissioner also mentioned the success of working with Commissioner Polinsky with the Let's Talk Series.

Montgomery-Wells Housing Committee

This position is vacant.

International Advisory Committee

Commissioner Liana Adrong was absent.

Staff Report:

Commissions Administrator Liz Lennon briefly shared friendly reminders for the commission to attend the Fair Housing Luncheon that will take place on **Wednesday, April 27 from 12-2 pm** and to work on upcoming programs for the 2022-23 year to submit by **June 30**.

Chair Smith shared with the commission some ideas that he has for events and programs and would like to meet with vice-chair Kentia Smith and Commission Administrator Liz Lennon to discuss them in further detail.

Chair Smith also open the floor for the UNCG college students visiting the meeting to share their thoughts about the public meeting. Drekwan Futon shared his interest in connecting and learning more information about vice-chair Kentia Smith's homeless organization.

Meeting Minutes:

Motion to Accept March Meeting Minutes

Motion 1 Commissioner Sue Polinsky

Motion 2 Commissioner Ivan Cutler



Unanimous approval

Absences:

Absences were not discussed.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn

Motion 1 Commissioner Sue Polinsky

Motion 2 Commissioner Akeylah Campbell

Approved: _____ Date _____
 Chairperson

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Greensboro Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2022

The Human Rights Commission convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 pm on the above date on a Zoom Conference call with Chair Shon Smith presiding.

Commissioners Present: Shon Smith, Kentia Smith, Susan Polinsky, Brenda Bishop, Bob Kollar

Commissioners Absent: Ivan Cutler, Akeylah Campbell

Human Relations Department Staff: Dr. Love Jones, Liz Lennon, Alan Hunt

Council Liaison: Marikay Abuzuaiter

Visitors: Liana Adrong

Call to Order

Chair Shon Smith called the meeting to order at **6:06 pm**.

I. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Smith thanked everyone for attending and then proceeded with a moment of silence and meditation. Chair Smith asked to motion the flexibility of the agenda to vote on the previous month's meeting minutes and the HRC state resolution while the commission has quorum.

Meeting Minutes: Motion to Accept April Meeting Minutes

Motion 1 Commissioner Sue Polinsky

Motion 2 Commissioner Brenda Bishop

Unanimous approval

Commissioner Polinsky inquired on questions three and five within the resolution that Dr. Love proceeded to answer. Commissioner Polinsky also had questions regarding how resolutions are effective and Councilwoman Abuzuaiter shared information on the concept and how it's utilized for the community.

Commissioner Bob Kollar also mentioned that he would have preferred to see more examples within the resolution and a more solid plan.



HRC State Resolution:

Motion 1 Commissioner Sue Polinsky

Motion 2 Commissioner Bob Kollar

Unanimous approval

Chair's Report

Chair Smith welcomed visitors as well as Councilwoman Abuzuaiter back to the meeting. He also mentioned attending the Fair Housing Luncheon and shared how great it was to see everyone in person.

Chair Smith mentioned meeting with Commission Administrator Liz Lennon regarding hosting another signature event in the summer with hopes that it will be as successful as the MLK winter events.

After the chair report Commissioner, Sue Polinsky motioned to table the subcommittee reports until after HRD Allan Hunt's presentation. Chair Smith agreed and moved to motion.

Motion 1 Commissioner Sue Polinsky

Motion 2 Commissioner Bob Kollar

Unanimous approval

Staff Report

Allen Hunt shared information regarding the Fair Housing section of the Human Right department and its partnership with HUD. He shared topics of race, gender, and other protected classes when it comes to fair housing.

Dr. Love also reemphasized the role of Fair Housing and the department and how some of the emerging housing issues can be utilized as topics and discussions within the community and therefore, meeting with all commissions and housing subcommittees for the ideation phase of planning. She also shared information regarding the Morningside Scholarship and which is created as a memorial for Morning Side Homes and given annually to five graduates of James B. Dudley High School in memory of the victims who died tragically in the Greensboro Massacre of 1979 and invited the commission to assist in the reviewing and scoring process of the scholarship applicants.

Due to the meeting approaching the hour, Dr. Love motioned to Chair Smith to extend the meeting to finish the chair reports.



Education Committee

Commissioner Sue Polinsky shared that the subcommittee had an excellent planning meeting for the upcoming 2022-2023 “Let’s Talk Series” and was able to select topics based on the survey that was sent to the HRC and Commission on the Status of Women that provided ten topics with the most selected being the six topics used for series.

International Advisory Committee

Commissioner Liana Adrong mentioned wrapping up the fiscal year and for the last meeting in June, they have replaced the meeting with “World Refugee Day” with the hope that it will be a great success.

Employment Committee

Commissioner Akeylah Campbell was absent and no report was shared.

Human Services and Social Equity Committee

Commissioner Kentia Smith had no report to share.

Montgomery-Wells Housing Committee

This position is vacant.

Absences:

Absences were not discussed.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn

Motion 1 Commissioner Kentia Smith

Motion 2 Commissioner Sue Polinsky

Unanimous Vote

Approved: _____
Chairperson

_____ Date

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION





Greensboro Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2022

The Human Rights Commission convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 pm on the above date on a Zoom Conference call with Chair Shon Smith presiding.

Commissioners Present: Shon Smith, Bob Kollar, Sue Polinsky, Kentia Smith

Commissioners Absent: Ivan Cutler, Akeylah Campbell, Brenda Bishop, Brittany Jackson

Human Relations Department Staff: Dr. Love Jones, Liz Lennon, Alan Hunt

Council Liaison: Marikay Abuzuaiter

Visitors: Nodia Mena

Call to Order

Chair Shon Smith called the meeting to order at **6:09 pm**.

I. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Smith thanked everyone for attending and then proceeded with a moment of silence and meditation.

Chair's Report

Chair Smith mentioned that the commission is currently in need of a chair for the Education subcommittee and will be serving in the position until filled.

Commissioner Polinsky asked about the duties of the position as well as the challenges. Dr. Love, director of the Human Rights department, and Commissions Administrator Liz Lennon proceeded to share the duties and tasks of the chair as well as their role as staff.

Commissioner Bob Kollar also shared some challenges faced when he served as chair such as the lack of collaboration with other housing subcommittees within the Human Rights Commission and how the current direction of sub-committees collaborating more will be helpful towards the committee's functions.



Education Committee

Commissioner Sue Polinsky mentioned the committee wrapping up the planning for the 'Let's Talk Law' series for 2022-2023. The last one for the spring session will be on July 14. Commissioner Sue mentioned low attendance for the last session and encouraged members to please attend the next one due to the information that will be shared. She also mentioned the topics planned for the fall and spring 2022-2023 sessions.

International Advisory Committee

Ambassador Nodia Mena of the sub-committee shared that the committee has been working on their work plan 2022-2023 and the goal to create more educational outreach programs. She also mentioned the planning for the World Refugee Day event that the committee is hosting and reaching out to agencies and the community to attend.

Employment Committee

Commissioner Akeylah Campbell was absent and no report was shared.

Human Services and Social Equity Committee

Commissioner Kentia Smith reported no current changes regarding the committee and still consistently working with Commissioner Sue Polinsky regarding the planning for the "Let's Talk Law" series.

Montgomery-Wells Housing Committee

This position is vacant.

Staff Report

Dr. Love shared important dates regarding the 2022-2023 work plan and Human Rights celebration. The staff sent voice-over PowerPoint presentations via email on the previous day to all members that provides steps on how to plan for the upcoming year regarding programs and events. Commissioner Polinsky asked if there was a form to help plan for the programs. Dr. Love then shared that the form was located in the workbook provided as well as the PowerPoint. She also shared information for the Human Rights Celebration and Morningside Awards on June 29 and mentioned that the staff is still in preparation for the award and celebration and would like for commissioners to please sign up and attend so that they may be celebrated. Dr. Love also mentioned Covid is still a current issue and the capacity of the event will



continue to be monitored as a safety precaution. She also thanked all of the commissioners for attending the retreat on June 4 and look forward to the upcoming celebration.

Announcement and Upcoming Events

No announcements shared

Motion to Approve May Minutes

No Quorum

Absences:

Absences were recorded and not discussed.

Motion to adjourn meeting

No Quorum

Approved: _____
Chairperson

Date

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Greensboro Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2022

The Human Rights Commission convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 pm on the above date on a Zoom Conference call with Chair Shon Smith presiding.

Commissioners Present: Shon Smith, Sue Polinsky, Kentia Smith, Ivan Cutler, Akeylah Campbell, Brenda Bishop

Commissioners Absent: Bob Kollar, Brittany Jackson

Human Relations Department Staff: Dr. Love Jones, Liz Lennon,

Council Liaison: Marikay Abuzuaiter (absent)

Visitors: Fatima Diop

Call to Order

Chair Shon Smith called the meeting to order at **6:04 pm**.

I. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Smith asked for a moment of silence and meditation.

Chair Smith motioned to vote on the previous month's minutes while the quorum was present.

Motion to Approve May Minutes

Motion 1: Kentia Smith

Motion 2: Sue Polinsky

Unanimous Vote

Education Committee

Commissioner Sue Polinsky mentioned the committee has completed the planning for the "Let's Talk" series and requested that Commission Administrator Liz Lennon resend the promotion for the July 14 immigration session. She also asked if everyone could spread the word and support the series.



Chair Smith asked if the series is being advertised to a certain demographic and Dr. Love Jones director of the Human Rights department confirmed and shared the marketing and advertisement process.

Employment Committee

Commissioner Akeylah Campbell shared with the committee members that the planning for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training 2022-2023 is in progress. She is looking to connect with the City of Greensboro DEI office for information as well as a possible partnership towards the training that will include direction for those who own businesses and/or are currently in the workplace.

Commissioner Cutler expressed sharing the information regarding the training with the Carolina Peacemaker.

Human Service and Social Equity

Commissioner Kentia Smith shared working with Commissioners Sue Polinsky and Akeylah Campbell regarding a live homeless simulation that she currently presents to residents and other organizations within the community. She requested if she is able to engage the HRD commissions in this activity and Dr. Love approved and mentioned connecting with Commissions Administrator Liz Lennon to share more information as well as times and dates.

Montgomery-Wells Housing Committee

This position is vacant.

International Advisory Committee

IAC Ambassador Fatima Diop shared a list of tasks that the committee is currently engaged in including the recruitment of more members, particularly immigrants. The committee is also preparing for the upcoming elections with hopes that the committee will remain strong and effective within the community.

Chair Report

Chair Smith thanked everyone for their committee reports as well as for attending the monthly meeting and shared that he will be completing the task of seeking a chair for the Montgomery Wells housing sub-committee. He also took the time to elaborate on the Human Rights Celebration and Morningside Awards and congratulated Dr. Love Jones and the staff and a job well done.

Chair Smith also shared his concern regarding the recent decisions of the US Supreme Court and asked about the commission's current stance on the situation and if they're able to discuss hot topics and/or advocate. Dr. Love's response was that it is ideal for the commission to address certain topics and issues so as long as it remains relative to the commission and subcommittee's purpose.



Staff Report

Dr. Love shared the important deadlines regarding the submission of the 2022-2023 work plan and encouraged all members to continue to meet with the commission’s administrator Liz Lennon. She also revisited the quarterly meeting options and shared that the final options will be presented and voted on by the next HRC meeting.

Announcement and Upcoming Events

No announcements shared

Absences:

Absences were recorded and not discussed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion 1: Shon Smith

Motion 2: Sue Polinsky

Unanimous Vote

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Chair Shon Smith at 7:12 pm.

Approved: _____
Chairperson

_____ Date

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION





Greensboro Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2022

The Human Rights Commission convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 pm on the above date on a Zoom Conference call with Chair Shon Smith presiding.

Commissioners Present: Shon Smith, Sue Polinsky, Kentia Smith

Commissioners Absent: Ivan Cutler, Akeylah Campbell, Brenda Bishop, Bob Kollar, Brittany Jackson

Human Relations Department Staff: Dr. Love Jones, Liz Lennon,

Council Liaison: Marikay Abuzuaiter (absent)

Visitors: Satta Sedi-Johnson

Call to Order

Chair Shon Smith called the meeting to order at **6:05 pm**.

I. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Smith asked for a moment of silence and meditation.

Chair Smith shared that he usually preferred approving the minutes first however due to there being no quorum he would wait to approve in the latter part of the meeting. Chair Polinsky then mention the update to the minutes that Commissions Administrator Liz Lennon made and to be mindful to approve the correct one.

Chair Smith then asked Commissioner Kentia Smith if she wanted to proceed with the poverty simulation she mentioned implementing in July's meeting. Commissioner Smith shared that she preferred waiting until the September meeting to do it so that the entire committee can be apart.

Chair Report

Chair Smith shared that he attended the MLK planning meeting for the breakfast in 2023 and mentioned that the current planning status is selecting a speaker. Commissioner Kentia mentioned not being familiar with the speakers and wanted to know more about the selection process. Dr. Love Jones, director of the Human Rights Department proceeded to share the steps including the video submission that assist with selecting candidates.



Chair Smith thanked all of the sub-committees who turned in their work plans for 2022-2023 and encouraged those who have not to do so as soon as possible. He also reminded the committee to submit their program plan proposals 90 days before the event or program date.

Education Committee

Commissioner Polinsky shared that Commissioner Kentia and Liz Lennon met at the previous meeting to work on finalizing the ‘Let’s Talk Access’ topics and speakers for the 2022-2023 series. She also shared the success of the previous “Let’s Talk Law-Immigration 101” and how much information was shared and received during the session.

Commissioner Polinsky also asked Chair Smith when they are able to connect to discuss the financial literacy program ideas to prevent her from conflicting with his topics.

Chair Smith asked if it would be a conflict if the commission would host a housing conversation due to April being Fair Housing month. Dr. Love proceeded to share that it is not a conflict and is indeed encouraged for the commission to host the conversation.

Commissioner Polinsky asked Chair Smith if he was suggesting for the committee remove the topic for April to discuss housing and if so it is something she would have to think about.

Dr. Love then shared for clarification that the topics are supposed to be related to the existing subcommittees for example housing, health, etc. within the commission, and also to remain mindful of how many programs and events are planned.

Employment Committee

Commissioner Akeylah Campbell is absent and no report was presented.

Human Service and Social Equity

Commissioner Kentia Smith shared being the guest speaker for the City of Greensboro Employee Resource Group “Lunch in Learn” for the month of July as well as working with Commissioner Polinsky with the “Let’s Talk Access”. She also mentioned being under the same assumption and appreciative of the clarity regarding planning for subcommittee topics.

Montgomery-Wells Housing Committee

This position is vacant and no report submitted.



International Advisory Committee

International Advisory Committee Ambassador Satta-Sedi- Johnson shared the recent 175 Liberian Celebration of Independence. She shared how she serves as a liaison for the organization and was impressed and grateful for how supportive the City of Greensboro overall has been towards this event and the community. Satta also shared the goals of the IAC and how important it is for them to continue creating programs and events that will help serve as a resource within the community.

Staff Report

Commissions Administrator Liz Lennon reiterated the success of the Liberian Celebration, how awesome of an event it was, and how much of a pleasure it was to witness the city become more involved and present within the community. Liz shared with the committee that the planning process regarding sub-committees continues and to please make sure that you are meeting with her to finalize the programs and events for the upcoming 2022-2023 year.

Liz also reminded commissioners to attend the Commission on the Status of Women “Equality Day Breakfast” on Saturday, August 27 from 8 am- 10 am and purchase tickets from Jodie Stanley.

Dr. Love Jones shared with the members to please be mindful of the attendance regarding the subcommittee and monthly meetings. If you are not attending and the absence is not excused then the removal request will be submitted.

Announcement and Upcoming Events

No announcements shared

Absences:

Absences were recorded and not discussed.

Motion to Approve July Minutes

No quorum for a vote.



Motion to adjourn the meeting

No quorum for a vote.

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Chair Shon Smith **at 7:01 pm.**

Approved: _____
 Chairperson

_____ Date

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Greensboro Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2022

The Human Rights Commission convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 pm on the above date on a Zoom Conference call with Chair Shon Smith presiding.

Commissioners Present: Shon Smith, Sue Polinsky, Akeylah Campbell, Brenda Bishop

Commissioners Absent: Kentia Smith, Brittany Jackson; Ivan Cutler,

Human Relations Department Staff: Dr. Love Jones, Liz Lennon,

Council Liaison: Marikay Abuzuaiter (absent)

Visitors: Liana Adrong, Roselynn Chouchan

Call to Order

Chair Shon Smith called the meeting to order at **6:04 pm**.

Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Smith asked for a moment of silence and meditation.

Due to quorum Chair, Smith motioned to accept the meeting minutes for August and September

Meeting Minutes Approval - August and September

Motion 1: Brenda Bishop

Motion 2: Bob Kollar

Unanimous Vote

HRBC Reports

Chair Report

Chair Smith motioned to table the discussion of sub-committees and the purpose of the function.

Education Committee

Commissioner Sue Polinsky shared with members the success of the September's Let's Talk Access series "Kids Coding" session and asked the staff to download the link as soon as possible. She also



requested the topic for the next Let's Talk session- Let's Cook in November be geared towards holiday recipes. Love Jones, Director of Human Rights mentioned that she recorded the September session and will download it after the meeting as well as suggesting that the topic remain within the purpose of the series and/or human right topic.

Employment Committee

Commissioner Akeylah Campbell mentioned she did not have much to report however still working on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training event for 2022-2023. She also thanked everyone for the recommendations for the planning and will continue to finalize the event.

Human Service and Social Equity

Commissioner Kentia Smith was absent and no report was shared.

Montgomery-Wells Housing Committee

This position is vacant.

International Advisory Committee

IAC Chair Liana Adrong shared that the committee finally had a date for the community meeting and decided which communities to host and reach out to the residents to inform them so they may engage.

Staff Report

Dr. Love shared the new implementation of a culture and religious calendar and how important it is for the department's goal of diversity, equity, and inclusion that will allow the staff to be more attentive to those who honor and/or celebrate.

Housing Appraisal reports are another topic of discussion Love mentioned sharing but suggested sharing at a later date due to her preference to go into further detail.

Chair Smith reiterated the importance of the calendar so that members can remain informed.

Announcement and Upcoming Events

No announcements shared



Absences:

Absences were recorded and not discussed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion 1: Sue Polinsky

Motion 2: Akeylah Campbell

Unanimous Vote

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Chair Shon Smith at 7:06 pm.

Approved: _____
Chairperson

_____ Date

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Greensboro Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2022

The Human Rights Commission convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 pm on the above date on a Zoom Conference call with Commission Administrator Liz Lennon presiding.

Commissioners Present: Bob Kollar, Akeylah Campbell,

Commissioners Absent: Shon Smith, Sue Polinsky, Kentia Smith, Brittany Jackson; Ivan Cutler, Brenda Bishop

Human Relations Department Staff: Liz Lennon,

Council Liaison: Marikay Abuzuaiter

Visitors: none

Call to Order

Commissions Administrator Liz Lennon called the meeting to order at **6:18 pm**.

The staff experienced technical difficulties with the zoom app that prevented some staff and visitors to log on and resulted in the meeting starting late with no quorum.

Liz motioned for all reports of commissioners absent to be tabled for the December quarterly meeting and for those attending the current meeting to share their subcommittee's report.

Employment Committee

Commissioner Akeylah Campbell mentioned some upcoming events with Guilford Works and plans to attend the workshops regarding professional skills that she feels would be some great opportunities for other commission members as well as beneficial to the community.

Staff Report

Liz Lennon shared with members to attend the quarterly meeting on Wednesday, December 14 at Barber Park Event Center. This meeting will serve as a meet and greet and will give the community members and partners the opportunity to meet commissioners and city council members.



She also mentioned the staff will be proposing a new way for boards and commissions to operate due to the low meeting attendance and lack of engagement. The idea will be presented at the quarterly meeting.

Councilwoman Abuzuaiter shared her concern about the low attendance however understood that situations happen that prevent members from attending. She looks forward to the commission continuing to move forward in a positive way and plan on attending the December meeting

Announcement and Upcoming Events

No announcements shared

Absences:

Absences were recorded and not discussed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting

No vote was recorded due to no quorum.

The meeting was adjourned by Commissions Administrator Liz Lennon at 6:38 pm.

Approved: _____
Chairperson

Date

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION





**Greensboro Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2021**

The Human Rights Commission convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 pm on the above date on a Zoom Conference Call with Chair Douglas Bender presiding.

Commissioners Present: Douglas Bender, Bob Kollar, Sue Polinsky, Ivan Cutler, Akeylah Campbell, Shon Smith, Kentia Smith

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Zanzella Savoy

Human Relations Department Staff: Jodie Stanley

Legal Department Staff:

Council Liaison: Marikay Abuzuaiter

Council Representative:

Visitors: Melody

Call to Order

Chair Doug Bender called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

I. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Bender wished all happy holidays and called for a moment of silent meditation.

Committee Reports

Chair Report

Chair Bender shared that he had participated in the planning of the MLK event, noting that Jodie Stanley would share more about the details of the event later. He also noted that he was a member of the new

Cultural Affairs Commission and would share more about that later. Bender reminded all that the statewide HRC retreat was coming up soon and he encouraged all to attend if they were able. He thanked the commissioners who were involved in organizing the Let's Talk Law series, saying that it was an excellent example of the impact the commission could have on the community.

Education Committee

Commissioner Sue Polinsky provided an update on the last Let's Talk Law series, sharing that she received really great feedback on it. The speaker did an incredible job. She encouraged all to mark their calendars for February 3, which would be the session on Probation, Parole and Plea Bargains.

Employment Committee

Commissioner Akeylah Campbell shared some of the information on the education series with her coworkers and they were also interested in participating. She expressed excitement for the committee's next steps.

Polinsky asked if council members ever shared their events. Council member Abuzuaiter said she'd be more than willing to share events, that she often did. Stanley noted that she had not created a Facebook event for the second session but would for the third.

Human Services and Social Equity Committee

Commissioner Kentia Smith shared that she had been participating with the Let's Talk Law series and she was very happy with their success with that series. She invited all to Center City Park on December 16 for a holiday event for the homeless. The week of Christmas they would be having an annual memorial to commemorate homeless people who were lost that year. There was also a walk on December 21 that she invited them all to participate in.

Montgomery-Wells Housing Committee

Commissioner Bob Kollar shared that he didn't have anything to report at this time.

International Advisory Committee

Jodie Stanley shared that their most recent event focused on mental health and homelessness which was especially challenging for non-English speakers. They hoped to make some progress in addressing these issues.

Commissioner Kollar suggested that an immigration attorney would be a great addition to the Let's Talk Law series. Stanley stated that she knew an attorney who could assist with an overview. Commissioner Kentia Smith noted that she and other agencies could use information on how best to assist non-English speakers. Polinsky asked Stanley to set up a meeting for the committee to discuss.

Chair Bender asked if anyone else would like to share updates. Commissioner Shon Smith shared that he had been volunteering with the MLK planning committee and was organizing a watch party subcommittee to organize watch parties for the event on January 17.

Commissioner Ivan Cutler shared a brief update on the human rights calendar process, noting that he hoped to have a draft in the next 6 months or so. The calendar had the potential to brand Greensboro as an inclusive city.

Cutler also noted that the following day, December 10, was Human Rights Day and that the HRC should recognize it. Stanley noted that communications was already working on a social media post that should be ready to post the following day. Commissioner Shon Smith asked if it was possible to ask City Council to pass a resolution. Stanley stated that more lead time was needed, typically 5-6 weeks. Councilmember Abuzuaiter shared that resolutions always happened on the first meeting of the month. Kollar asked Stanley to ensure that a few quotes from the actual UN agreement be included in the statement.

Polinsky noted that the calendar would be full of many holidays for many faiths, and how was this information to be used? Chair Bender and Commissioner Cutler noted that the calendar was a work in progress and they would work out these details with the help of a committee.

Chair Bender shared that he'd spoken with Commissioner Savoy. She was healing well and while she was absent, she was with them in spirit and very excited to see everyone again.

Staff Report:

Jodie Stanley shared a brief update on the MLK event, noting that she'd recorded keynote speaker Nikki Giovanni that afternoon and planned to record the faith message of unity the following day. She also passed along Dr. Jones' suggestion that all commissions meeting together quarterly, and finished by saying that they could expect a new staff member that would start the following week.

Commissioners Kentia Smith and Kollar shared their support for quarterly meetings. Polinsky noted that 4 a year seemed excessive, perhaps it could be twice a year. All expressed general support for this meeting schedule.

Meeting Minutes:

Commissioner Polinsky noted 4 errors in the October meeting minutes:

Second page: Sue noted – she would not respond to in an online as they are very personal questions.

Tedx Greensboro, spelling is wrong.

Polinsky is spelled wrong on page 3.

Under meeting minutes, "Chair Bender shared that..." sentence needs to be finished

Motion to Accept October Meeting Minutes as Amended

Motion 1: Sue Polinsky

Motion 2: Shon Smith

Unanimous approval

Other Business: Election

Chair Bender shared that as he took a position on the new Cultural Affairs Position, he would need to step down from the HRC and it was time for the commission to elect a new chair. He noted that they would need nominations and would conduct the election in January.

Chair Bender noted that two people dialed in, and asked them to introduce themselves if they were visitors. Caller named Melody called in to listen and learn more about the meeting.

Kollar thanked Stanley for all of her work on the MLK event, noting her facilitation skills.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter shared that Toyota was coming to the megasite, bringing 1750 jobs in the first phase, and up to 4000 jobs in the second phase, with billions of dollars invested. Council was very intentional about finding companies that were offering livable wages, valued diversity, and were fair in their employment practices. They were very excited about the jobs this would bring to Greensboro.

Melody asked what bus routes were available to this site, and if any thought had been given to ensuring that the people that needed the jobs, could get to them. Councilmember Abuzuaiter shared that she was on the board that determined PART services, and that many had discussed exactly this issue and were working to address it. Thankfully they had a few years before the company would open.

Commissioner Kollar expressed his appreciation and support for the Greensboro community, noting that it was the reason big companies were willing to come. Commissioner Kentia Smith shared that she often used transportation services and would love to provide feedback, as she often saw areas for improvement. She asked Councilmember Abuzuaiter to share information about the types of jobs that would be coming to Greensboro. Councilmember Abuzuaiter responded that she didn't yet have the information but if Commissioner Smith could send an email requesting it, she would pass it along when it was available.

Absences:

Chair Bender shared that Zanzella Savoy would return as soon as possible.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn

Motion 1: Kentia Smith

Motion 2: Ivan Cutler

Unanimous approval

Chair Bender adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Approved: _____
Chairperson
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

_____ Date