



City of Greensboro

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

November 6, 2014

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 p.m. on the above date in the Board Room at the Greensboro Cultural Center, with Chair Kevin Williams presiding.

PRESENT: Chair Kevin Williams, Vice-Chair Michael Picarelli, Commissioners Zac Engle, Gary Grandon, Moussa Issifou, Kurt Collins, Margaret Arbucke, Jacqueline King and Chantale Wesley-Lamin

HUMAN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT STAFF: Love Crossling, HRD Director; Allen Hunt, Supervisor and Isabel Gil, Administrative Assistant.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Commissioners Jean Brown, Tonya Doane

ABSENT: Commissioner Lakeia Harris.

VISITORS: Councilmember Marikay Abuzuaiter, Yacine Kout, Narayan Khadka , Andrew Young, Adamou Mohamed, Jose Oliva, Addy Jeffrey, Paula Latham, Lawrence Ross, Amy Murphy, Eric Ginsburg

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and a moment of silence was observed.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Chair Williams thanked visitors from the community for being present and invited them to introduce themselves to the Commission.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR – COMMISSIONER KEVIN WILLIAMS

Report attached.

Commissioner Arbuckle asked the Chair if he would like to refer the Human Rights Violations regarding Health issues to a committee, Chair Williams answered he just wanted to bring awareness to it and perhaps create a committee in the future.

Commissioner Picarelli questioned that in regards to the potential Ebola virus threat he would like to look for a plan to engage with the Guilford Health Department to get a full understanding of rules and procedures and report it to the international community particularly those who travel to those areas. Chair Williams agreed to establish this partnership.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CRC- Commissioner Wesley-Lamin

The next CRC meeting is on Friday November 5th at 1:00 pm in the MMOB, there are seven complaints on the agenda for review. The HRD staff will provide an update regarding the CRC Enhancement Committee.



Employment – Commissioner Zac Engle

Looking for opportunities for a summer program for youth, they had a meeting on October 20th at the Nussbaum Center and next meeting will take place on November 10th at the same location.

Human Services Committee – Chair Williams

Allen Hunt provided the following update: The MLK Breakfast will take place on January 19th at the Koury Convention Center and the cost is \$20.00. Carroll Rogoff Hallstrom has been confirmed as the keynote speaker for this event. The Northwest High School Jazz Ensemble will be playing background music and other College Choirs will be invited to participate.

Montgomery Wells/Housing – Commissioner Doane

Report attached.

Program and Planning – Commissioner Grandon

Report attached.

STAFF REPORT – Dr. Crossling and Allen Hunt

Dr. Crossling stated that the staff will subscribe on list serves to provide a monthly package of important dates of community meetings and or events that HRC would be able to engage and she encourages the commissioners to do the same with the organizations they have been involved with and bring those dates to HRD.

CMO has the goal to strengthen the Commissions. Reporting processes will be helpful to demonstrate commission’s progress and it will take place through the following forms: 1) *Current Issues Report* to provide fresh outline on a regular basis with highlights of Council meetings, work sessions or community meetings with issues that might be pertinent to the HRC committees . 2) The Commissioners should provide the *Community Engagement/Activity Report* on a monthly basis as a way to report and track activities. 3) The *Monthly Committee Report* is for Committee Chairs and provide on a monthly basis in order to develop and annual report. Reports will be sent electronically and the expectation moving forward will be to send all reports on Friday before the meeting. See templates attached.

Allen Hunt updated the HRC about the Police Citizen’s Board as follows: On October 16th, Interim Assistant Manager Wesley Reid provided a presentation before City Council Members in regards to CRC Enhancement Committee and the new changes proposed to CRC. There will be a new body established with nine members directly appointed by the City Council. See attached presentation.

Dr. Crossling added that the Human Relations Department has been tapped to develop some sort of inclusive statement that will ensure that there will be diversity on the selection of members.



Commissioner Picarelli asked if the meetings are going to be held in the evening to accommodate people, how the confidentiality of discussions will be handled. Dr. Crossling stated there has been discussion that there needs to be privacy constrains no matter what location because the appointed people would need to discuss and deliberate in a closed session. She also stated that the HRD will be administrator of the body.

Commissioner Picarelli stated he is disappointed that city staff with relation to the Human Relations Commission has allowed to get to the place where the CRC is and he thinks the process has not been put through considers this an attack to the CRC because there are process already been established to handle the cases and he thinks this new implementation would be a mess.

Chair Williams stated everything is still in development stages and the HRC still has an opportunity to provide input to submit through the HRD to project how the new board should look. The City Council will allow the HRC to be part of the transition and the CRC will still be reviewing changes.

Chair Williams thanked HRD staff for the valuable information in presenting the information to the HRC and visitors.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October 2, 2014 Meeting Minutes
On motion made by Commissioner Engle and seconded by Commissioner Picarelli the minutes were unanimously approved.
- October 23, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes
On motion made by Commissioner Engle and seconded by Commissioner Picarelli the minutes were unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS – IAC Committee Discussion

Chair Williams stated that the HRC needs to authorize to merge the proposal for IAC structure presented on October 23 meeting and the proposal presented by members of the International Community.

Allen Hunt recommended the HRC to vote to form an Ad Hoc committee with the charge of forming the structure of IAC based on community feedback and commissioners recommendations.

Chair Williams made a motion to extend the meeting to eight o clock. Commissioner Engle moved the motion and Commissioner Arbuckle seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chair Williams invited speakers from the floor to speak.

Mr. Yacine Kout stated he learned very late about this item on the Agenda and asked to keep people interested in the IAC informed whenever the IAC has a discussion or vote on the Agenda.

Dr. Crossling said is that typically there are no personal invitations extended to attend a HRC meeting, unless there is a special meeting with a specific topic like the one held on October 23rd. Commissioner Engle asked the HRD staff to ensure there is a consistent communication regarding the IAC.

Commissioner Arbuckle asked if the HRC Chair does appoint all the committee chairs. Her understating is that the former IAC chair named the present IAC chair because he had to resign. Dr. Crossling said that Umar Awan designated people on the leadership for support, this was before he knew he was no longer



going to be able to chair the committee; at the same time the HRC chair was in transition so Chair Awan decided to have the vice-chair move one step up. Commissioner Arbuckle suggested having members of the IAC to provide recommendations and have a liaison to help form the structure. Dr. Crossling stated the HRC would have to undo what it has been established.

Mr. Andrew Young stated that he has had a really hard time understanding exactly what happened, it is hard to follow the terms designated leadership, current leadership and general public if he follows the narrative and how things have been unfolded about the process but he knows that some of the designated leaders have objected to this process and thinks it should be voted down by the HRC.

Mr. Adamou Mohammed stated that he didn't intent to speak that day but he thinks the facts being stated was not what really happened. Commissioner Moussa Issifou was present at the meeting when Umar made the suggestions of the leadership and Mr. Issifou expressed he was opposing to that process because there was not many people in attendance and apparently the suggestion was not heard. Mr. Mohammed suggested it should be admitted by staff that a mistake was made and that the process should be more transparent and to move on. He hopes that the HRC and the international community would come together and come with a solution.

Mr. Narayan Khadka stated does not agree with the process either and he suggested that newcomers should participate in this process in order to be more inclusive.

Mrs. Yamile Nazar stated the HRC ordinance gives the chair complete discretion as to who is going to be appointed as a chairperson for each of the committees, it is not necessary to vote to undo the previous designations.

Chair Williams asked the commissioners to consider authorizing a Working Committee group to form the structure of the IAC. Commissioner Engle moved the motion and Commissioner Arbuckle seconded it the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Crossling suggested having a liaison to relay to the HRC and the HRD. Mr. Adamou Mohammed was designated to be the liaison.

ACKNOWLEDGE ABSENCES

Excused Absences were acknowledged.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Commissioner Engle and seconded made by Commissioner Picarelli, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Chairperson
Greensboro Human Relations Commission

Approved: _____
Date