



City of Greensboro

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

March 13th, 2015

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, Lindsay Burkart, Gary Grandon, Kurt Collins, Moussa Issifou and Freman Murphy.

HUMAN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT STAFF: Allen Hunt and Isabel Gil.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Commissioners Tonya Doane, Chantale Wesley-Lamin Margaret Arbuckle, Jacqueline King, Lindy Perry-Garnett,

ABSENT: Commissioners Jean Brown and Lakeia Harris

CALL TO ORDER

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

Chair Williams made a motion to amend the Agenda in order to have the City Council liaison to address an issue is concerning the City Council. Commissioner Picarelli moved the motion, Commissioner Burkart seconded it and the motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak. First she wanted to thank the HRC, Commissioner Grandon with the Planning Committee and everyone else involved in the DACA event held on March 2nd. She stated the event was very emotional, heartwarming and it was exciting to see the room almost full; she commended the HRC for bringing that to the forefront. She added she had a brief discussion with the Mayor about it and perhaps have a presentation to the Council where the students could tell the stories because that part is very impactful.

In addition, she wanted to address the issue regarding the redistricting of Greensboro City Council which voted passed 9-0 to have a referendum and let voters decide. Council members went to Raleigh and stated their cases but the original Bill with no amendments passed 33-15. With this Referendum she hopes that in the House of Representatives that part will come forth and allow the voters to sign on it. As a personal comment, the issue is not whether she is re-elected or not but allowing the voters to decide and their voices to be heard.



Commissioner Issifou asked what the purpose of this Bill is. Councilmember answered that it has been stated that it will be a good thing for Greensboro. There will be seven districts, a representative for each district and the Mayor but the Mayor will not have the power to vote which is distressing to her.

Commissioner Grandon asked if the Bill passes will the Council restructure the Commissions as well. Councilmember Abuzuaiter stated that probably only district representatives can appoint people but this part has not been defined.

Commissioner Picarelli added that the House has a different view than the Senate regarding this Bill so it can get hold up in committee or change the Mayoral piece of it.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR – COMMISSIONER KEVIN WILLIAMS

Report attached.

Chair Williams was part of the interview panel to select GPD Chief and wanted to commend City Manager Jim Westmoreland for the selection of Chief Scott because it was not an easy decision to make.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CRC- Allen Hunt on behalf of Commissioner Wesley-Lamin

The Committee reviewed two cases involving courtesy. In one case, the Committee did not agree with the findings of the PSD investigation.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 1st at 9:30 am in MMOB Plaza Level Conference Room.

Education Committee- Commissioner Picarelli

Report attached.

For next meeting they will discuss which Middle school they are launching the pilot program for the 6 grade.

Commissioner Collins asked if the Education Committee is involved with the DACA conversations. Commissioner Picarelli said it could be but it needs to be discussed with the committee.

Employment Committee - Commissioner Engle

The committee held two meetings in the Nussbaum Center. A great success to report is that the program for the summer has been funded through a grant and also Jenny Caviness had published the program on the City's



website. The name of the program will be “Future CEO”. The program is expected to have twelve to fifteen participants.

In addition, Commissioner Engle stated he attended the shelter meeting with Commissioner Arbuckle and the discussion was around the need of having no barrier shelters, meaning shelter allowing people that have issues with substance abuse and cannot be on a traditional shelter environment. The committee agreed to have options outside the shelters in the longer term and probably permanent housing. He would like to talk to the council about the need of space on a temporary basis particularly in the winter time.

Human Services Committee - Chair Williams

The committee will lay out the timeline to plan the event next year primarily on the funding aspect of it.

Commissioner Murphy asked if there is another project the committee facilitates besides the MLK. Chair Williams said that there is no other program at the moment but encouraged Commissioner Murphy to participate in the committee.

Montgomery Wells/Housing – Allen Hunt on behalf of Commissioner Doane

Report attached

Program and Planning – Commissioner Grandon

Report attached.

Commissioner Picarelli congratulated Commissioner Grandon for the well attended and organized event held on March 2nd. He added that there are several House Representative Members that have been trying to put legislation regarding In State Tuition but hasn't moved forward. He said that providing In State Tuition would be great but adding the coverage of the fee that can be paid outside of grants should be added to the DACA discussion because Federal governments need to recognize that.

Commissioner Grandon made a motion to request the Chair to create a committee to draft a resolution to support in state tuition for DACA students. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Engle and passed unanimously.



IAC – Allen Hunt

The IAC working group decided to have their leadership elections on April 17 and 18 at the Fanta City Center on Market Street. The candidacy interest form has been developed and shared; a press release will be requested.

Chair Williams commended the members of the IAC working group for their efforts in establishing the structure and the framework for the elections.

STAFF REPORT –Allen Hunt

See staff report attached.

Commissioner Engle wanted to state that he is not a proponent of paperwork and would like the staff to take the information provided and submit the forms. Commissioner Grandon wanted to echo the statement stating that the forms should be kept for the staff to fill out based on Commissioners information.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION AND VOTE

- February 5, 2015 Meeting Minutes. On a motion moved by Commissioner Engle, seconded by Commissioner Picarelli, the minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

ACKNOWLEDGE ABSENCES

Excused Absences were acknowledged.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Chairperson
Greensboro Human Relations Commission

Approved: _____
Date



ATTACHMENTS



CHAIR REPORT

GENERAL UPDATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highway Marker Commemorating the Klan/Nazi Massacre was approved by City Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The language of the marker will include the word “Massacre”.
PERTINENT COUNCIL/COMMUNITY UPDATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reconfiguration of City Council Bill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Components of the bill includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Reduction of the number of City Council members from 9 to 7. □ Elimination of the “At-Large” candidates on the City Council □ Development/redesign of the voting districts to become 7 distinct voting districts with equal voting power and representation □ The position of Mayor will not have any voting rights except only when there is a tie in the votes for a Motion item.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conclusion of Final Stage of Interview Process for the position of Chief of Police for Greensboro Police Department
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● City Planning Police/Community Conversations <p style="margin-left: 20px;">On February 24, 2015, the initial meeting to discuss the development of the conversations was canceled due to inclement weather. A re-schedule date is in discussion within the Office of the City Manager.</p>
COMMISSIONER REQUESTS OF STAFF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● N/A
IMPORTANT DATES/EVENTS ATTENDED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 3, 2015 – City Council Meeting
QUESTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If the bill on the Reconfiguration of the Greensboro City Council is approved, what will be the impact on the number of allocated seats on the Boards and Commissions, especially on the Human Relations Commission?

Chair’s Signature

Kevin Williams

Date Report Submitted

March 4, 2015



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE INFORMATION		
Committee Name:	Education committee	
Chairperson:	Michael Picarelli	
Meeting Dates:	First Monday of each month (past was March 2, 2015)	
BUSINESS UPDATE		
Note: This portion of the report does not have to be in paragraph form; bullets are permissible but please use prose to elaborate on each point.		
Previous Business Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mission and focus ● Committee selection 	
Current/ On-Going Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Say Yes to Education” 	
Future Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Career focus ● Parent day at school 	
Support Needed (Commission/Staff)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● City information on Say Yes to Education ● Press Release 	
PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES		
Item	Date	Description
<input type="checkbox"/> Program Proposal Form Submitted		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration with CSW/HRC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Collaborations with Community Organizations/Partnerships		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ● ●
MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT EFFORTS		
Item	Description	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal Inviations to Organizations:	<u>Non Profit Org. Getting emails</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Informal Invitations to Organizations:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flyer:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:	<u>City Press Release of Meeting Dates</u>	



COMMITTEE INFORMATION	
Committee Name:	Montgomery Wells Housing Committee
Chairperson:	Tonya Doane
Meeting Dates:	TBD

BUSINESS UPDATE	
Note: This portion of the report does not have to be in paragraph form; bullets are permissible but please use prose to elaborate on each point.	
Previous Business Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Received a list of key individuals to contact
Current/ On-Going Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Made initial contact with Beth Benton, Code Compliance Division Manager Neighborhood Development Dept.
Future Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●
Support Needed (Commission/Staff)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Lee Staton, Fair Housing Specialist

PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES		
Item	Date	Description
<input type="checkbox"/> Program Proposal Form Submitted		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● N/A ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration with CSW/HRC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● N/A ●
<input type="checkbox"/> Collaborations with Community Organizations/Partnerships		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● N/A ● ●

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT EFFORTS	
Item	Description
<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Invitations to Organizations:	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Informal Invitations to Organizations:	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Flyer:	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth:	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	N/A

Chairperson's Signature

Tonya Doane

Date Report Submitted

3-2-15



Report of the Ad Hoc Programming and Planning Committee

Thursday, March 5, 2015

11:25 AM

Our activities have focused on the DACA program that we sponsored this past Monday, March 2, 2015 at the Nussbaum Room in the Central Library.

The program was a resounding success with over 50 folks attending. Presenters did an outstanding job. Student stories were compelling and powerful.

Ample time for audience feedback was available and dozens stayed after the program for informal discussions with presenters and each other.

We should all be proud of this accomplishment.

The most significant finding from the evening was the strong support for legislation in support of In-State tuition for NC Colleges and Universities being offered to DACA students. The group was highly supportive of resolutions from the Commission, the City Council, and other groups being passed on to appropriate legislators.

It is strongly recommended, therefore, that the Commission demonstrate its responsiveness by appointing a committee to draft a resolution in support of In-State tuition. This resolution would be brought to the full Commission for discussion.

A meeting time has not yet been set to discuss the ICRM program potentially hosted by the YWCA with Commission support. As the ICRM is a private non-profit, there are some who are having trouble setting issue surrounding this institution in a public forum. More discussion is required to frame this program.

Many thanks are extended to all who helped with the program on Monday. In particular, Isabel Gil and the Staff of the IRD should be complemented on the outstanding job they did in support of the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

G. Grandon
Chair, Programming and Planning Committee



STAFF REPORT

GENERAL UPDATES	
● Facebook Page Update	
● CSW Collaboration for MWBE—Contact Felicia Angus for more details	
● HRC/CSW Subcommittee Collaboration around the efforts of Filmmaker Maurice Hicks (Topics: Fatherhood/Prostitution Intervention Awareness)	
● Support to expedite meetings on shorter notice	
● Major Event Update	
PERTINENT CMO/COUNCIL/COMMUNITY UPDATES	
● Please stay tuned for outlines of topics from speakers from the floor (council mtg)	
STAFF REQUESTS TO COMMISSIONERS	
● Reporting:	
○ Chair	} All due the last Friday of the Month
○ Committee	
○ Community Engagement/Activity	
● Committee Chairs Provide availability for participation in HRD staff meetings on Mondays at 10am	
● Please report secondary authority for committee chairs/Recruitment (Isabel— Training)	
IMPORTANT DATES	
● Police Community Dialogue March 23 rd Bennett College Global Center	
● Faith Action Drive March 23 10am, 1pm	
● Half-day Retreat Date Options: April 17, 18	
● Allen absent: March 24, -April 8, Please contact Isabel	

Director's Signature

Date Report Submitted

March 5, 2015