



Meeting Minutes & Business Notes

December 3, 2015

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:09 p.m. on the above date in the Board Room at the Greensboro Cultural Center, with **Chair Kevin Williams** presiding.

Present: *Commissioners Williams; Burkart; King; Wesley-Lamin; Engle; Perry-Garnette; Issifou; Hawkins, Brown; Wil*

Human Relations Department Staff: *Dr. Love Crossling, Director; Allen Hunt, Supervisor, Jodie Stanley, Education & Outreach Coordinator*

Excused Absences: *Commissioners: Vice-Chair Michael Picarelli; Arbuckle; Collins*

Absent: *Commissioners: Murphy*

I. Call to Order

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

II. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Williams called for a moment of silent meditation.

Motion:

Chair Williams asked for a motion to move the Police Review Board (PRB) Joint Resolution discussion next on the agenda.

- **Commissioner Engle** moved to move the Police Review Board (PRB) Joint Resolution discussion next on the agenda. **Commissioner Issifou** seconded the motion.
- No call for discussion made by the Chair
- Unanimous approval by Commission

Question: **Commissioner Issifou** asked if proxy appointments could be made to the PRB.

Answer: **Dr. Love Crossling** stated that representation on the PRB will be: 1 member for each council district and 1 member appointed by each at-large council representative. Chair Williams invited more questions regarding the PRB Joint Resolution. No more questions were discussed.

Motion:

Chair Williams asked for a motion for the Commission to endorse the PRB Joint Resolution.

- **Commissioner Engle** moved for the Commission to endorse the PRB Joint Resolution.
- **Commissioner Issifou** seconded the motion.
- No call for discussion made by the Chair.
- Unanimous approval by Commission.

III. Recognition of Visitors and Presentations

Chair Williams asked visitors to introduce themselves and asked the representative (**Isabel Grace**) from the Greensboro Mural Project to introduce herself and provide an overview of their funding structure and recent projects and future goals the GMP. The Greensboro Mural Project is an arts organization made up of college student and community stakeholders that engages the people of Greensboro in the process of creating murals through dialogue across the community. The Greensboro Mural Project uses public art as a tool to: develop community oriented conversations, record history, explore social justice themes and make Greensboro more beautiful. Questions from the Commission and attendees included: funding, artist recruitment for murals, subject matter of murals, collaborations, and the movement of courts assigning court defendants to public murals and graffiti enforcement laws.

Visitor Cheryl Smith introduced herself and described how she came in contact with the Commission and her interest in volunteering with the Commission. She gave an overview of her humanitarian volunteer activities in the City and expressed interest in supporting the activities and programs of the Commission.

Other visitors declined to comment and expressed thanks for the recognition by the Chair.

Chair Williams welcomed and introduced the Commissions newest **Commissioner David Wils**. **Commissioner Wils** gave an overview of his background and expressed thanks for the opportunity to serve on the Commission.

IV. Committee Reports

Chair Williams welcomed committee reports to be presented.

Complaint Review Committee

Commissioner Wesley-Lamin reported that no cases were reviewed this month and that this was the third consecutive month without a complaint to review.

Human Services Committee

Commissioner King reported that MLK Breakfast plans were almost completely finalized with only a prep meeting to be held on the 10th of December for all participants to review the event

program. **Commissioner King** also reported on a mental health program that is a four part series addressing important mental health issues, such as depression, addiction, suicide and PTSD.

Commissioner King thanked staff for supporting her efforts and encouraged other commissioners to utilize administrative support from the staff for their programs. **Commissioner King** asked attendees to consider volunteering with her committee. Staffer **Jodie Stanley** provided a brief overview of the program timeline. **Commissioner Engle** encouraged the committee to contact Sanctuary House as valuable community resource and potential partner.

A question was raised about sponsor support of the MLK Breakfast. Staffer **Allen Hunt** provided a brief overview of the current sponsorship status from community businesses stating that the levels are below our goal. **Hunt** asked Commissioners to consider reaching out to their networks and described the sponsor outreach tools. **Hunt** also asked for volunteers to participate on the day of the event. **Commissioner King** and others heartily endorsed participation in the event and purchasing tickets early.

Native American Committee

Chair Williams reported that a meeting gathering community stakeholders and service providers will take place in January. **Chair Williams** asked Hunt to elaborate on the Committee and spoke of meeting with **Rick Oxendine** of the Guilford County Native American Committee and working with him to build a network to serve the Native American community. **Chair Williams** talked about structuring the committee like the International Advisory Committee. **Hunt** commented on how committees under the Commission have a specific structure and that the only time an alternative structure is permissible, where a non-commissioned person can chair a committee, City Council must specifically ordain such a structure by law. **Dr. Crossling** advised that any such structural changes would require the due diligence to make the argument to City Council to enact such changes.

- n/a • **Education Committee**
- n/a • **Employment Committee**
- n/a • **Montgomery/Wells Housing Committee**
- n/a • **International Advisory Committee**

IV. Staff Report

Dr. Crossling spoke about the recent Joint Commissions Retreat and the topics that were covered and how they can be articulated in the Commission’s plans and goals. **Dr. Crossling** advised that there is a symbiotic relationship between the goals of City Council and the Commission. **Dr. Crossling** emphasized the opportunity the Commission to utilize staff support for ideation, planning

and implementation. **Dr. Crossling** highlighted continuity of programming and goals and collaborative opportunities.

Commissioner King commended staff for their help developing the Mental Health Program and encouraged other Commissioners to utilize staff support to develop their programs.

Hunt encouraged succession planning and the different benefits of such organizational tools. **Dr. Crossling** encouraged committees to develop grassroots organizers and stakeholders to volunteer and serve on the committee. She also emphasized recognition of volunteers.

Hunt commented on the draft orientation manual and the elements therein, whereby the Commission would transition from a service organization to a service culture attracting new members and community members.

V. Election

A vote was administered by paper ballot after an overview of the process. Ballots were distributed. **Chair Williams** gave an overview of the history of voting ballots with the Commission under his tenure on the Commission. **Commissioner Wil** stated that he did not know anyone on the Commission, since it was his first time there. **Dr. Crossling** then gave an overview of past elections, whereby, the outgoing Chair gave admonishments and interested candidates (nominated and or write-ins) provided overviews of their credentials and qualities making them viable candidates to serve.

Chair Williams admonished the Commission regarding the challenges facing the City and the Commission. He talked about the qualities and leadership of the Commission be strong and be able to manage conflicts and public perception. **Chair Williams** highlighted that homelessness is a forefront issue that the Commission needs to address and interbelief understanding and dialogue. **Dr. Crossling** gave an overview of the role of staff to the Commission. One of the functions of the staff is to build continuity and understanding between the Commission and City Council.

Commission Engel provided highlights of his residency, work history and tenure on the Commission. He emphasized his passion for the City and a work-centric leadership style.

Commissioner King provided highlights of her residency, diversity work history and community service to the undeserved in Greensboro and other communities. She stated that she is solution focused.

Hunt called for write-ins. **Chair Williams** asked if it was okay for him to vote. **Hunt** advised that it was proper.

Chair Williams requested for a motion to vote.

**Motion:
Election of new leadership.**

- **Commissioner Hawkins** moved.
- Seconded by **Commissioner Issifou**.
- The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Election Outcome

Commissioner Engel elected Chairman & **Commissioner King** as Vice Chair.

**Motion:
Commission to accept election results**

- **Commissioner Wesley Lamin** moved to accept the results.
- **Commissioner Issifou** seconded.
- The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Chair Engel complimented and commended former **Chair Williams** for his service.

Councilwoman Abuzuaiter thanked the Commission on passing the PRB Joint Resolution and encouraged Commissioners to attend the upcoming council committee meeting when the Resolution will be presented to Council for adoption.

VI. Adjournment

Motion

- **Chair Engel** called for a motion to adjourn.
- **Commissioner Wils** motioned to adjourn.
- **Commissioner Issifou** seconded.
- The Commission unanimously approved the motion at 7:20pm.
- End of meeting.

S/ _____

Chairperson

Greensboro Human Relations Commission

Approved: _____

Date