



Meeting Business Notes

February 4, 2016

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 Zac Engle presiding.

Attendance

Present: Chair: Zac Engle, Lindsay Burkart, Samuel Hawkins, Jr., Moussa Issifou, David Wils, Chantale Wesley-Lamin, Freman Murphy, Councilwoman Marikay Abuzuaiter (City Council Liaison)

Excused Absences: Kurt Collins, Jacqueline King, Margaret Arbuckle, Michael Picarelli, Linda Perry-Garnette, Jean Brown

Staff: Allen Hunt, Supervisor, Jodie Stanley, Education & Outreach Coordinator, Maria Hicks-Few, Human Resources Diversity and Inclusion Officer

I. Call to Order

Chair Engle called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.

II. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Engle called for a moment of silent meditation.

III. Presentations

Maria Hicks-Few presented a Resolution for ratification of an official calendar for the City of Greensboro of national and locally recognized holidays and cultural recognition months (Cultural Heritage Calendar). Ms. Hicks-Few outlined the purpose and recognition points that the calendar will address. Ms. Hicks-Few presented drafts of the Resolution to Commission Members for their consideration to ratify and endorse the document. Chair Engle asked a procedural question to Ms. Hicks-Few regarding the nature and purpose of the Commission ratifying the document. Ms. Hicks-Few spoke to the nature of the document and its tie to the ongoing work and purpose of the Commission. Councilwoman Marikay Abuzuaiter clarified that the resolution did not require ratification by the Commission to be adopted by City Council. She



highlighted that ratification or endorsement by the Commission was more and act of public support of the document. At Marikay Abuzuaiter's request, Allen Hunt spoke to the nature of recommendations, endorsements and public shows of support and relayed the distinctions between these public acts. Various member of the Commission commented the various cultural groups and populations recognized within the cultural calendar. Chair Engle and Commission members asked Allen Hunt about options they have regarding showing public support given the timeline without being able to vote to ratify or endorse the Resolution.

Rashard Jones from the African-American Male Initiative of Greensboro, NC, presented the history, purpose and goals of AAMI. Mr. Jones shared that with the support of the United Way of Greater Greensboro and the African-American Leadership engagement group, AAMI partners with Guilford County Schools to improve outcomes for young African-American and other male students. Mr. Jones described a committed group of volunteers that serve as mentors to African-American, Hispanic and other male students in grades 2nd-5th at Wiley Elementary. 6th-8th at Jackson Middle and 9th grade at Smith High School. Mr. Jones detailed that the goal of the program is to improve the emotional and social well-being of African-American and other boys at Wiley, Jackson and Smith using mentoring as a tool to empower and enhance the lives of youth. Mr. Jones provided the program contact information: Rashard Jones, Communities in Schools, (336) 324-5400, jones@gcsnc.com.

Several Commissioners and Chair Engle expressed interest and support for partnering with AAMI; including reaching out through their individual networks to promote volunteerism as mentors.

At the request of Chair Engle, Marikay Abuzuaiter spoke about her role as liaison to the Commission and recent initiatives by Council. Economic development was highlighted and incentive programs attracting corporate investment in Greensboro. Honda Jet was highlighted for their comments complimenting the City of Greensboro as an inclusive and welcoming place to live and do business. Commissioner Hawkins made some comments on the benefits of inclusivity in the City's development and how the City can be an example to other municipalities.

IV. General Comments

Chair Engle took a moment to comment that this would be the last time the Commission would meet in the Greensboro Cultural Arts Center due to circumstances impacting the Commission conducting business. Chair Engle suggested other venues; like libraries. Chair Engle also took a moment to make recommendations about the meeting calendar listing on the City Website. Chair Engle praised the work of the Commission on throwing another very successful MLK Breakfast. Chair Engle also relayed comments on the Police Community Review Board selection process and the status of progress on that regard. He detailed the number of PCRB members and the their



relationship to the larger Commission and he invited Commission Members to submit their interest in the PCRB and observe trainings for the group. Chair Engle relayed details on the role and relation of the PCRB to the larger community, as a neutral liaison to address and promote understanding of policing and community perspectives. Chair Engle asked for the draft materials of the Native American Committee be distributed to the Commission. He encouraged members to review the materials and provide feedback on the development of NAC. Chair Engle commented on a meeting he had with Rev. Nelson Johnson and his respect and admiration of Rev. Johnson's contribution to the Civil Rights movement in Greensboro. He stated that he hoped to partner with the Beloved Community Center in the future.

Commission Wesley-Lamin reported that the Complaint Review Committee heard one case and concurred with the Greensboro Police Department.

Chair Engle requested Allen Hunt to give details about the proposed structure of the NAC. Hunt detailed the proposed structure and officers of the NAC and the process for official adoption in the government system.

Jodie Stanley highlighted the International Housing event to take place later in the month and she encouraged attendance by Commissioners. Chair Engle encouraged increased collaboration and partnership with the International Advisory Committee Chair and grassroots leaders. Ms. Stanley highlighted the upcoming Mental Health Series that is being led by Commissioner King. Chair Engle expressed concern about not having IAC represented at recent HRC meetings and not having current reports from the group. Ms. Stanley addressed Chair Engle stating the IAC has been made aware of the need to have a representative in attendance at HRC meetings and submitting regular reports.

End of report.