



## **Meeting Minutes**

**April 6, 2017**

**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 YWCA of Greensboro. **Vice Chair Jacqueline King** presided over the meeting.

**Commissioners Present:** Allen, Bhardwaj, Issifou, Sevier, Arbuckle, King, Burkart, Cobbler, Perry-Garnette, Hawkins, Wils

**Commissioners Absent:** Engle, Wesley-Lamin, Kennedy, Murphy, Phillips

**Human Relations Department Staff:** Love Crossling, Jodie Stanley, Quanisha Collins

**Legal Department Staff:** Rosetta Davidson

**Council Liaison:** Marikay Abuzuaiter

**Visitors:** Raleigh Stout (Historic Aycock), Uto (UNCG Student), Barbara Harris (Assistant City Manager), Adamou Mohamed (International Advisory Committee)

### **I. Call to Order**

Vice Chair King called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

### **II. Moment of Silent Meditation**

Vice Chair King called for a moment of silent meditation.

### **III. Chair Report**

Vice Chair King relayed the Chair report to the group, which included a reminder about the upcoming retreat on the following Saturday, April 8 at Lindley Recreation Center and a reminder about the importance of attending meeting. She stressed that commissioners were allowed only 3 absences for a rolling 12 month time period and asked that all commissioners be mindful of their commitment to the Commission.

### **Committee Reports**

### **Police Community Review Board**

Commissioner Cobbler had not yet arrived. Other PCRB members present confirmed that one case had been reviewed at the previous night's meeting.

### **Education**

Commissioner Wils shared that the Education Committee met with several teachers, Monica Walker with GCS' Diversity Office, members of the IAC and community members to discuss the educational equity program, designed to address the post-election climate in schools. Priorities discussed during the meeting were to go to the community to hear voices, with potential to create programming or training for those who ran summer programs for children. The group agreed that a town hall vs a forum format was preferred. Jodie Stanley added that it was Monica Walker's suggestion to move a training for administrators and principals to the end of August or September rather than the original June 3 date.

### **Employment Committee**

Commissioner Burkart shared that she was still working with Commission on the Status of Women's Deborah Goddard, adding that they were working on an upcoming program on May 20 that would focus on women and re-entry issues, hopefully to be held downtown in an accessible location. Quanisha Collins suggested that she had a contact at Guilford College that may be interested in supporting this effort. Burkart thanked Collins for the suggestion and asked her to send contact information. Commissioner Allen also suggested that the National Council for Formerly Incarcerated Women & Girls may be a good resource.

### **Human Services Committee**

Commissioner King offered an update on upcoming plans for a Mental Health Resource Fair, sharing that it was her desire to invite Nekeshia Hammond with Hammond Psychology to skype in as a speaker for the event. The event, scheduled for May 6 from 10-2 at Windsor Recreation Center, was focused on sharing information and resources with the community, offering important connections for those in need of support. IAC Chair Adamou Mohamed suggested that mental health awareness was something many in the international community were concerned about, and that he would be willing to support the event with marketing.

### **Montgomery/Wells Housing Committee**

Commissioner Issifou shared that he had no updates.

### **International Advisory Committee**

IAC Chair Adamou Mohamed reported that the IAC was very busy in the month of March, especially with the preparation for the election that took place March 26.

He continued by sharing that on March 17, a Yes Weekly reported reached out to talk to the IAC about Sanctuary Cities, knowing there were none in North Carolina but wanting to know more about what the IAC and the City of Greensboro was doing for the international community. As the reported was out of state, the IAC team held a teleconference interview with Jodie Stanley, Love Crossling, and Carla Banks (Communications Director) that went very well.

On March 18, the IAC attended a refugee health fair at Westover Church, which was a great opportunity to raise awareness about the work of the IAC.

Mohamed recalled that many international soccer players that frequented Hester Park were frustrated to hear that the fields would be fenced off and their use limited. After long conversations with Parks and Rec staff the previous year, a field use schedule was developed. Soccer players reached out to the IAC again wanting to know more about this year's field use schedule so they met with Parks and Rec staff member Austin Homan, who was helpful and expressed pleasure with the way the schedule was handled the previous year.

IAC Vice Chair Yacine Kout attended the last Committee for Social Equity Meeting and discussed the Educational Equity Summit with them.

Mohamed continued by sharing that the IAC was contacted by a group in Harrisonburg, VA, including the City Manager, that wanted to set up a similar group in Harrisonburg. They wanted to know more about the IAC, how it was established, and if the IAC could offer support or direction for their next steps.

The election on March was very successful. Mohamed shared that 540 people came out to vote and selected candidates that were good representatives for the international community. He thanked Commissioner Issifou for volunteering and Jodie Stanley and Isabel Gil for coordinating the event, adding that the new IAC team planned to attend the upcoming commission retreat.

Mohamed continued by sharing that the IAC hosted a table at a recent Montagnard Community Health Fair, and that Vice Chair Yacine Kout had attended the Guilford County School Board Meeting two days prior. During the meeting, it was discussed that students of color were achieving at a lower level than white students. He added that May 1 was International Migrants Day and that the IAC planned to stand in solidarity with other groups showing support for migrant workers.

### **Committee for Social Equity**

Commissioner Hawkins was not in attendance.

Vice Chair King acknowledged the arrival of Commissioner Cobble.

### **Staff Report**

Love Crossling began by sharing that staff report formats would change to include the following components:

- Updates
- Follow up on former requests
- New requests

She continued with a reminder about the upcoming retreat, stating that the content was based on feedback received from commissioners. She stressed the more conversation about follow-up on requests was forthcoming.

Crossling reminded commissioners about the deadline of July 1 for programming and asked that for the sake of adequate staff support, commissioners not propose new program dates that fell before July 1. She then highlighted the upcoming Fair Housing Luncheon and its theme, "Fixing Windows, Fixing Systems." The goal of the program was to highlight the success stories of people who found it worth their time and money to invest in established homes that others may find less than appealing and stigmatized. She also announced the upcoming Notable Latinos event on April 21, which acknowledged members of the community who advocated for the Latino community. Crossling continued with an announcement about applications now being accepted for Summer Youth Academy, and Jodie Stanley finished with a statement about the CSW's medical talk program on April 22 at the Greensboro History Museum, which was a free program focused on women's health.

### **Additional Comments**

Vice Chair King welcomed Commissioner Hawkins and invited him to share his report for the Committee for Social Equity. Hawkins shared that the next meeting was scheduled for April 18 at 6pm at Central Library. He added that he had met with the Thrive policy research group the past Tuesday and described upcoming legislation that was designed to make expungement more accessible.

King commented that she was aware of a program for ex-offenders to support them in starting their own businesses.

### **VI. Review of Meeting Minutes**

#### **Motion to Approve the March Minutes**

Moved by: Commissioner Cobbler

Seconded by: Commissioner Burkart

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Additional Comments**

Vice Chair King asked if anyone had any additional comments or questions. Love Crossling suggested that the HRC's July meeting fell in the same week as the July 4 holiday and asked if the commission wanted to move it to the following week.

#### **Motion to Move the July 6 Meeting to July 13**

Moved by: Commissioner Hawkins

Seconded by: Commissioner Cobbler

The motion passed unanimously.

### **IX. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn.**

Moved by: Commissioner Cobbler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Burkart  
The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Minutes Approved by:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairperson**

**Greensboro Human Relations Commission**

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**