



Meeting Business Notes

July 13, 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. **Chair Zac Engle** presided over the meeting.

Commissioners Present: Chair Zac Engle, Moussa Issifou, Samuel Hawkins, David Wils, Tom Phillips, David Sevier, Ed Cobbler

Commissioners Absent: Vice Chair Jacqueline King, Irving Allen, Margaret Arbuckle, Freman Murphy, Lindsay Burkart, Kumar Bhardwaj, Chantale Wesley-Lamin, Lindy Perry-Garnette, Michelle Kennedy

Human Relations Department Staff: Love Crossling, Jodie Stanley

Legal Department Staff: Rosetta Davidson

Council Liaison:

Visitors: Saroj Patnaik (International Advisory Committee), Raleigh Stout

I. Call to Order

Chair Engle called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm, noting that they did not have quorum.

II. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Engle called for a moment of silent meditation.

III. Chair Report

Chair Engle shared his report, noting that the MLK Breakfast Planning Committee was still recruiting interested commissioners to serve and support the planning of the 2018 event. Engle also mentioned that they had recently received an invitation to partner in the planning of an Opioid Awareness Day event and he encouraged commissioners to sign up to help plan this event.

Engle asked if housing events were being planned? Crossling confirmed that yes, plans were in motion to create a series for the 2017-2018 year.

Commissioner Cobbler asked which commissioners would be up for reappointment this year. Engle responded with several names, including Commissioners Wesley-Lamin, King, Sevier and King. He stressed the importance of following through with submitting interest forms if they wanted to continue to serve on the Human Relations Commission.

Chair Engle added that the third and last appointment to the PCRB would be delayed for about 45 days. His only concern was that the current board was heavily represented by males, and he wanted to work carefully to ensure that the next at-large appointment was a woman. He expressed his commitment to work diligently to find the right person for the board.

Committee Reports

Police Community Review Board

Commissioner Cobbler reported that they had a meeting the previous night to discuss the findings of the Ad Hoc Committee's report. Discussion was held around whether or not they should be able to ask questions of the witnesses. He reported that they planned to offer an update to City Council on July 18. There were no cases ready to handle, but the group was eager to review the cases as soon as they were prepared.

Education

Commissioner Wils reported that the planning committee was waiting to hear more from Ivan Canada as it was his desire to reach out to members of Guilford County Schools to assess their interest in supporting this initiative. He committed to informing the commissioners of plans as soon as he knew more.

Employment Committee

Chair Engle advised that he was still seeking a chair for this committee. He asked staff to notify all commissioners that this role needed to be filled.

Human Services Committee

Chair Engle advised that Commissioner King was not in attendance and had expressed a desire to pursue other passions, and would be stepping off the commission.

Montgomery/Wells Housing Committee

Commissioner Issifou stated that he planned to check in with staff in the coming months about an upcoming series. Crossling agreed, adding that staff would coordinate a preliminary planning meeting to determine topics. Engle also noted that the Commission on the Status of Women was planning their Women's Equality Day Breakfast and he encouraged commissioners to purchase tickets.

International Advisory Committee

IAC Vice Chair Saroj Patnaik reported that the IAC was part of two events recently, a July 4 JUS NC Independence Day Celebration and a July 8 event at Barber Park, the celebration of World Refugee Day. He invited all present to take part in two upcoming events on July 29, the Liberian Independence Day as well as an international dance festival downtown.

Engle asked if the IAC planned to be part of the National Folk Festival again this year. Patnaik said yes, they would probably be part of it this year. Engle offered that the commissioners could support if it was needed.

Committee for Social Equity

Chair Engle reported that Commissioner Hawkins was unable to attend, but highlighted important meeting dates on his report, including the upcoming Thrive GSO meeting and the MLK Breakfast planning meeting on July 13.

Dr. Crossling mentioned the possibility of planning a police community outreach series and expressed that staff planned to reach out to Hawkins to begin the process of planning the outreach.

Engle expressed some concern about offering outreach when the PCRБ process was still in limbo. Crossling shared that there was a need to raise awareness about issues and concerns, in addition to the process. Engle pointed out that perhaps the name shouldn't be PCRБ Outreach. Crossling agreed and stated that it would fall under the purview of the Committee for Social Equity.

Staff Report

Dr. Crossling shared information on plan for the upcoming commission retreat and the need for feedback on ideas, topics, and format. Staff's goal was to ensure that the retreat become a tool specifically designed to best meet the needs of the commission. Before the end of the month, the survey would be sent out and the retreat would probably be scheduled during the month of September. Engle suggested that November, perhaps the 1 or 2 week, might be a better date for most. Crossling also noted that the election process and how the commission membership may change, would certainly play into timing and scheduling. Engle encouraged staff to keep everyone informed of the options and to stay away from holidays. Crossling agreed.

Crossling announced the following meetings and events:

- July 17 MLK Breakfast planning meeting at 3 pm
- July 22 Listening Session
- August 3 Thrive GSO Employment, Education and Reentry
- August 26 Women's Equality Day Breakfast

Crossling finished with an announcement about the annual report, which contained important and exciting information and data regarding the activity of the commissions.

Chair Engle asked if anyone had a comment or question, inviting the visitors to speak as well. Someone asked a question about attendance, and Chair Engle noted that he had asked Jodie to create an attendance report so that he could follow up with specific commissioners.

Commissioner Sevier announced that National Night Out was coming up, and that in College Hill, City Staff member Jeff Sovich was helping municipal service district funds to hire a contractor to build some innovative traffic calming mechanisms, including signage and other

creative and interesting methods. For NNO on August 1 they would close a portion of a street on College Hill and would host various events, street painting, innovative crosswalk development, bump outs, food trucks and Council Man Outling was scheduled to speak. He invited all commissioners to participate in the event.

Commissioner Wils noted that his very first commission meeting was an election night and he remembered a nominating committee to gather the names of potential nominees. Engle explained the process of the nominating committee, and stated his intention this year was to gather the names of those interested. Usually the election took place in August. Engle noted that the year Wils was referring to, the vote was intentionally delayed until the chair followed through on a particular task.

Crossling offered that another option might be to create an anonymous electronic vote to make the voting process easier. Engle responded that for nominations, it would be an option, but not for voting. The integrity of the process could too easily be called to question. A paper record was important, and Wils stated that it was perhaps an order of business that should be handled in person. Crossling shared that electronic voting had been used successfully in the past. Commissioner Phillips shared that it had been tried by Council somewhat unsuccessfully, and he was concerned that it would impact attendance even more. Engle expressed agreement, sharing that you didn't know who opened the email or pushed the button, and what would happen if more votes came in than there were commissioners? He shared his opinion that nominations could take place in whatever manner they chose, but paper ballots would still be required to actually vote.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Commissioner Cobler
Seconded by: Commissioner Phillips
The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Minutes Approved by:

Signed: _____

Chairperson

Greensboro Human Relations Commission

_____/_____/_____

Date

