



Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2017

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) convened for their monthly meeting at 6:06 p.m. on the above date in the Board Room at the YWCA of Greensboro. **Chair Samuel Hawkins** presided over the meeting.

Commissioners Present: Chair Samuel Hawkins, Zac Engle, Lindy Perry-Garnette, Tom Phillips, David Sevier, David Wils, Moussa Issifou, Lindsay Burkart, Ed Cobbler

Commissioners Absent: Margaret Arbuckle, Irving Allen, Michelle Kennedy, Kumar Bhardwaj

Human Relations Department Staff: Love Crossling, Tony McCarty

Legal Department Staff: Rosetta Davidson

Council Liaison: Not in Attendance

City Manager's Office: Not in Attendance

Visitors: Saroj Patnaik (IAC Vice Chair), Raleigh Stout

I. Call to Order

Chair Hawkins called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

II. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Hawkins called for a moment of silent meditation.

III. Introduction of Visitors and Speakers

Chair Hawkins welcomed all present.

IV. Chair Report

Chair Hawkins thanked staff and commissioners for attending the commissioner retreat. Hawkins noted that commissioners will receive an assessment from staff, as a result of the retreat and

planning session, to better gauge leadership styles and personality types, to create a more unified commission. Hawkins stated that commissioners will be receiving professional development during further HRC meetings to better leadership development and the topic of how to talk to the press.

Hawkins thanked IAC Vice Chair Saroj Patnaik – stating it was a wonderful experience and learning opportunity.

Hawkins addressed Commissioners Wils, Allen, and Perry-Garnette, appreciating their boldness to run for city council. Hawkins congratulated Commissioner Kennedy for becoming a member of city council.

Nov 21 Committee for Social Equity

Hawkins stated the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast is January 15, and tickets will not be sold at the door. Hawkins stated this will be a great event for the HRC.

V. Committee Reports

Police Community Review Board

Commissioner Cobbler stated there were 5 people attending the PCRB meeting on November 8th. Cobbler stated the PCRB reviewed the materials presented at the PCRB meeting and came to a conclusion.

Education Committee

Commissioner Wils stated there is nothing to report at this time.

Human Services

Chair Hawkins stated that this committee was in need of a chair and he encouraged commissioners to consider serving in this capacity.

Montgomery-Wells Housing Committee

Vice Chair Issifou stated the committee is planning for the spring housing series this upcoming Tuesday.

International Advisory Committee

IAC Vice Chair Saroj Patnaik stated it was a grand month for the IAC with the festivals and election. At the recent IAC meeting, the IAC folded into one organized place with the Church World Service, with questions from attendees from the immigrant community. The IAC also had JUS NC acknowledged by NC State. Three festivals were held, and the IAC had a packed month with community outreach.

Committee for Social Equity

Chair Hawkins reported there is an upcoming meeting this upcoming Tuesday at 6pm at a to-be-announced location.

Staff Report

Love Crossling presented the feedback from the recent commission retreat. Crossling commented on three primary pieces resulting from the commission retreat: Commission Bodies, How to and Go to Info from Support Staff, and how to learn about Situational Leadership Development as Considered by the Commission.

Crossling noted that with the three-focus result, any training will be longer than a half-day training. Crossling acquired input from the commissions during the retreat regarding commissioner feedback on a retreat schedule and format.

Crossling noted that staff offered options of how to approach the sought-after trainings. One such option presented is to fold trainings into regular meetings, as 15 minute segments throughout the year. Feedback stated that some topics should be a half to full day retreat to cover the topics wholly.

Crossling stated the original window for training feedback as Nov. 5th or 6th. Crossling will be keeping this window open until further feedback is retrieved from commissioners in the aim to address the concerns of the majority of commissioners. Crossling stated the topics contributed to the trainings are those selected by commissioners at the previous retreat. Crossling thanked those who attended the retreat for interacting among and between commissions.

Crossling stated that part of the commission retreat brought forth the idea of a Winter Social. Crossling noted that as staff, staff would like to host an opportunity for commissioners to get together to relax at a winter social type of gathering. Crossling stated staff is in the process of establishing a date, sometime in the middle of December, to accommodate commissioners' schedules.

Commissioner Engle offered the idea that the idea of a winter social should not be a public meeting. Engle had a concern that if staff hosted the meeting, it would be considered a public meeting. Engle offered the idea that staff proposing the social makes it more like a work event than a casual event.

Commissioner Sevier stated that members of the commissions, among others, will receive invites from Sevier for a private gathering by Commissioners Sevier & Sevier.

Crossling offered that staff would like to contribute to help the financial burden of a gathering, and acknowledged that if staff hosted the gathering, it would be considered a public meeting. Crossling stated she looks forward to hearing feedback and suggestions regarding the winter social idea.

Commissioner Cobbler stated the idea of a winter social is a great idea, and will help commissioners get to know one another better. Cobbler encouraged the commission to have a gathering, regardless if the only meeting is that held by Commissioner Sevier.

Crossling will acquire feedback regarding this topic.

Crossling stated the commission will need new appointments in the upcoming months, and encouraged commissioners to reach out to community members they know that may be interested in serving on a commission.

VI. Review of Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve September Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Commissioner Engle

Seconded by: Commissioner Wils

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to Approve October Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Commissioner Engle

Seconded by: Commissioner Wils

The motion passed unanimously.

Additional Comments

Commissioner Sevier inquired into the status of the MLK Breakfast and its invitations status in regards to previous discussion. Chair Hawkins acknowledged and thanked those who were aware of the events that transpired. Hawkins would like to bring attention to the unaware Commissioners in regards to previous choices in speakers and guests for the MLK breakfast. Hawkins stated the previously invited speaker has had their invitation rescinded.

Commissioner Cobbler inquired which speaker and what had happened.

Commissioner Engle stated what transpired happened is in the minutes.

Hawkins stated he would be happy to inform Commissioner Cobbler after the meeting.

Director Crossling stated the un-invitation happened 30 days ago, and the only representative sharing a call to action is Amos Quick, who accepted the invitation.

Commissioner Sevier noted the Mayor is also invited.

Crossling confirmed.

Commissioner Perry-Garnette inquired if there is a process when events are happening in the name of the HRC, where the HRC is informed of potential speakers at HRC events. Perry-Garnette inquired if there is not a process, if it possible to implement a process whereby the HRC Commissioners are informed as decisions are made.

Hawkins stated there is a process in place, which is the planning meeting for the MLK breakfast. Hawkins apologized if his remark seemed flippant. Hawkins inquired to staff if information can be circulated on a regular basis regarding planning.

Crossling stated that, yes, it is possible for staff to circulate the information, and the preferred method for information circulation by staff is electronic circulation. Crossling stated that information is typically sent when it is finalized, after planning, to carefully present information after it has been determined, as to not provide false information to the public as information is subject to change during a planning process.

Engle stated that in the past, Human Services Committee Chairs would plan the MLK Breakfast event, and report out as the event is planned out, and include information in HRC packets at HRC meetings. Engle suggested staff report planning meeting information in print for the Commission, due to Commissioners having many e-mails to view on a daily basis. Hawkins stated concern regarding information as it is disseminated by staff, stating concern over names released in print.

Perry-Garnette inquired if the information from the planning process can be in a written report laid out for Commissioners, and not necessarily reported out as a formal report. Perry-Garnette suggested this would provide balance, as to inform Commissioners without giving false information to the public.

Crossling stated the suggestion has been noted by staff.

Commissioner Phillips inquired if the Chair is going to publish an attendance report to the HRC in future meetings. Hawkins affirmed. Crossling stated, at the pleasure of the HRC, quarterly attendance publications will be presented to the HRC starting in January.

Perry-Garnette stated commissioner attendance is important, and that all HRC members should make an effort to attend the meetings. Hawkins affirmed that missing HRC meetings is a gross dereliction of duty. Commissioner Phillips inquired when the next attendance report will be released. Crossling affirmed January, 2018.

Crossling stated that attendance reports are provided by the Clerk's Office when a newly elected council is determined.

VII. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn

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

Meeting informally adjourned at 6:41 pm.

Minutes Approved by:

Signed: _____

Chairperson

Greensboro Human Relations Commission

_____/_____/_____

Date