



Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2018

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) convened for their monthly meeting at 6:13 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, Vice Chair Moussa Issifou, Commissioners Lindsay Burkart, Irving Allen, David Wils, Hilary Goldberg, Cynthia Coleman

Commissioners Absent: Kumar Bhardwaj, David Sevier, Zac Engle, Tom Phillips, Lindy Garnette, Margaret Arbuckle

Human Relations Department Staff: Love Crossling, Taylor Strassburg, Traneke Hamrick

Legal Department Staff: Rosetta Davidson

Council Liaison: Marikay Abuzuaiter

City Manager's Office:

Visitors: Charles Byrd, Maggie, Cheyenne, Ella, Darby

I. Call to Order

Chair Hawkins called the meeting to order at 6:14 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. Hawkins stated that Commissioner Ed Cobbler would be replaced by Commissioner Goldberg. Hawkins asked all to rise and thank Ed Cobbler for his service on the commission and presented him with a certificate of appreciation. Chair Hawkins and Vice Chair Issifou signed the certificate and Hawkins stated the importance of showing gratitude during this day and age.

Chair Hawkins asked to acknowledge visitors.

Maggie, Cheyanne, Ella and Darby introduced themselves as students from Guilford College who were present to observe for a class assignment.

Charles Byrd shared about his travelling exhibit called the “Truth-Brary.” His exhibit is centered in American history, specifically black history in America. He is a storyteller who teaches through original books, photography, painting, and displays of invention. In recent past, he has received an award from the NAACP. He brought his art exhibit to Greensboro to showcase to schools and churches to teach children a history that is often left out of public education. He was previously a social worker and wanted to make a change in the education he was witnessing in the community. Tonight, he is here to advertise his travelling exhibit and make connections with anyone interested in his work. Dr. Love Crossling asked about his contact information. Chair Hawkins asked what the HRC can do to assist his work and promote these teachings in the Greensboro community. Chair Hawkins stated he has some ideas along with the Education Committee to use Charles Byrd’s work in the future. Vice Chair Issifou thanked Mr. Byrd for attending tonight and sharing.

Chair Report

Chair Hawkins discussed the successes of the MLK Day Breakfast, having sold out with over a thousand attendees. Hawkins discussed the future of our community working towards the dreams of the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

Police Community Review Board

Commissioner Phillips was not in attendance.

Chair Hawkins asked about the process for reinstating Ed Cobbler as the chair position for the Police Review Board. Director Dr. Love Crossling responded that the Chair of the PCRB will be replaced at the discretion of Commissioner Hawkins. She advised conversation among commissioners to use someone that is already a member of HRC. Chair Hawkins asked Ed Cobbler to remain the Chair of the PCRB.

For future reference, staff will hold the responsibility of getting the report out to those absent.

Education Committee

Commissioner Arbuckle and Wils have no updates.

Montgomery-Wells Housing Committee

Commissioner Issifou shared an update about the next event for college students surrounding student housing alternatives.

International Advisory Committee

Commissioner Afada stated a rally will be held for refugees and immigrants at LeBaur Park in support of the Muslim community. Chair Afada represented the IAC at an event discussing the DREAM Act and future resolutions. The January meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Feb meeting will be held Feb 22nd.

Human Services

Chair position vacant.

Committee for Social Equity

Chair Hawkins shared that the next meeting will be held on February 20th at 6pm in the Central Library, the room has not yet been determined. Hawkins stated the next thrive GSO meeting will be held on February 28th from 1-2:30pm, at the municipal building conference room.

Staff Report

Dr. Crossling mentioned that she had a family crisis in the previous week. She thanked everyone for their kind gestures in the past days. She stated she has taken some time off, but is not back in commission. Dr. Love Crossling acknowledged Taylor Strassburg and Traneke Hamrick, the current interns in the Human Relations Department. Crossling also mentioned the commission's need for programming and outreach efforts and that the staff in the Human Relations Department are here to assist.

Chair Hawkins asked about the HRC meeting schedule to be added to the City calendar. Dr. Crossling said that the Human Relations Department is still working on this.

Hawkins asked about the handling of media, interviews and other interactions. Dr. Crossling responded that the feedback has been positive, but they are still waiting for the dust to settle after the recent election cycle.

Hawkins asked about the succession of leadership and who is the best fit for subcommittee chair positions. Dr. Crossling said it is needed that people reach out and ask for assistance if they are interested in subcommittee chair positions.

Hawkins asked to consult with Dr. Crossling regarding the Safer Cities project. He spoke with the Chief of police to have a formal dialogue about this project. Crossling asked to be included and present during the conversation to assist with the process and other scheduling needs. HRC needs to be at a consensus regarding this information as well.

Chair Hawkins raised the question, that they maintain an acknowledgement for time of service in the future for other commissioners. The prerequisites must be that the serving commissioner that is rolling off has maintained required attendance, and have also maintained a body of work that shows they are engaged whole heartedly. There should be a voting process in which the sitting chair, sitting vice chair, and sitting director, to determine the quality of the commissioner's work. Dr.

Crossling stated that the sitting director can vet but cannot participate in voting. Hawkins stated that there must be a third person in the case of a tie. He asked if someone was willing to come forward and volunteer to be the third vote. Hawkins want to make sure it was clear that the commissioner leaving is worthy of recognition. Vice Chair Issifou asked to defer this decision to another meeting. Dr. Crossling made a point to follow up with particulars until the next meeting. There is consensus to acknowledge tabling the discussion for another time.

VI. Review of Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve January Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Commissioner Wils

Seconded by: Commissioner Burkart

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Burkart thanked Ed Cobbler one last time for his dedication to the commission and for all of his insight in the PCRB. Chair Hawkins asked the staff to create a means of logging when appointments and roll offs take place. He asked to maintain a formal record of these events to make it clear for commissioners when discussing their service. Dr. Crossling wanted to clear the air of how things changed in the last weeks, and allowed for room for new appointees. Dr. Crossling wanted to welcome the new commissioners despite the confusion with the resigning of Ed Cobbler. There was a time lapse with communication between the department and clerk's office that Dr. Crossling apologized for.

Chair Hawkins welcomed the newest commissioners and asked them to introduce themselves.

Commissioner Hillary Goldberg lives in District 5, and is looking forward to working in the community.

Commissioner Cynthia Coleman, also resides in District 5, she is a retired teacher and an outreach minister here in Greensboro.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Commissioner Wils

Seconded by: Commissioner Goldberg

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7: 10pm.

Minutes Approved by:

Signed: _____

Chairperson

Greensboro Human Relations Commission

_____/_____/_____

Date