

**ADOPTED MINUTES OF THE
GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL
March 24, 2022**

The Greenville Human Relations Council (GHRC) met Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 6:00 PM. The meeting was held in COMPSTAT Conference Room. Members absent denoted by x.

Samar Badwan-*	Olive Barrett-*	Rod Debs-*
Todd Fraley-*	Logan Harrison-*	Liz Liles-*
Francisco Limon-*	Antonio Milton-x	Lomax Mizzelle-*
Franchine Peña-x	LaQuon Rogers-x	Procopio Serrano-*
Tyrone Walston-x	Mayee Zhu-x	

Rose Glover, Council Member-x Cassandra Daniels, Staff Liaison-*

ROLL CALL: *Ms. Cassandra Daniels, staff liaison*, called the roll and quorum was ascertained. It was noted that there are four vacant seats on the board, which had been a factor in determining quorum.

Ms. Samar Badwan, Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed the members to the Thursday, March 24th meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by *Ms. Olive Barrett*, seconded by *Mr. Francisco Limon*, to approve the February 24, 2022 minutes with any necessary corrections. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Fair Housing Month – April 2022

Ms. Cassandra Daniels, stated in observance of National Fair Housing Month, the Fair Housing Committee has prepared and is presenting the 2022 Fair Housing Proclamation to the Council tonight for their action. The Committee decided not to pursue the Fair Housing Poster Contest and the Oratorical Contest for students. The Committee is working with their partners to host two (2) seminars. A seminar for tenants is scheduled for Monday, April 25th. The tentative venue is Jarvis United Methodist Church. The seminar for property managers is Tuesday, April 26th. The venue is Greenville Hilton. Confirmed partners for these events are: the City of Greenville (Planning and Development Services Department), Greenville Area Property Managers Association, Legal Aid of North Carolina (Greenville Office). Hopefully, Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church will partner with the City. The Jarvis partnership will provide available meeting space for the tenant seminar at no cost to the City. In addition, the City's Public Information Office is assisting with creating flyers; and the Information Technology Department is helping to change the Human Relations Council webpage to reflect current and accurate information for the Council. *Rev. Rod Debs* stated language reflecting "sexual orientation" should be included. The sixth WHEREAS should read as:

“WHEREAS, individuals in the city have the right to choose where to live without discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, sex, disability, gender identity, *sexual orientation*, familial status or national origin.”

Committee members are: Liz Liles and Franchine Pena (HRC members) and Diane Allen and Leigh Ann Odom (GAPMA members).

A motion was made by *Ms. Olive Barrett*, seconded by *Ms. Liz Liles*, to approve the proclamation with the following correction: to include “sexual orientation” in the appropriate place.

B. Inclusive Community Initiative

Ms. Cassandra Daniels, reminded the Council, that September is Inclusive Community Month. In observance of the City’s inclusive community efforts the Council has hosted a number of events throughout the month of September. Due to COVID-19, the Council did not host the City’s Inclusive Community Breakfast in 2020 or 2021 and only hosted one community dialogue. The Inclusive Community Initiative Committee will meet soon to make plans for any events/activities for the month of September.

C. Racial Equity Task Forces Report

Ms. Cassandra Daniels provided a brief update regarding the task forces report. Human Relations Council representatives met with the Mayor and City Manager regarding the work of each task force. Chair Samar Badwan, Vice-Chair Franchine Pena and the Chair of the Connecting People: Planting Seeds to Dismantle Racism Committee, Rev. Bob Hudak, are addressing concerns of Mayor Connelly and City Manager Ann Wall. In addition, Pitt Community College representatives are drafting a Memorandum of Understanding, pledging their support to establish a partnership with the City to assist with recommendations approved as part of the Business and Economic Opportunities Racial Equity Task Force.

NEW BUSINESS

A. North Carolina Human Relations Commissions/Councils Statewide Meeting

Ms. Cassandra Daniels informed the Council the next statewide meeting of Human Relations Commissions/Councils of North Carolina will take place on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 from 9:00 am – 12:45 pm. Statewide meetings continue to meet virtually. If you would like to attend, please register before the deadline.

B. North Carolina Human Relations Commission Resolution of Policy Recommendations to Advance Housing Access and Human Relations in North Carolina

Ms. Cassandra Daniels stated the North Carolina Human Relations Commission is asking for letters of support from local Human Relations Commissions/Council for the above

mentioned policy. The policy deals with the lack of affordable housing for low to moderate income residents (rental units and homeownership); as well as a shortage of housing for residents with disabilities. Four in ten low income people in North Carolina are homeless or pay over half their income in rent.

Housing is one of the goals of The North Carolina Human Relations Council. The State is an enforcement agency of HUD (Housing and Urban Development) which grants them the authority to deal with fair housing discriminatory cases. The City, is not substantially equivalent through HUD and is not an enforcement agency and does not investigate any complaints that are considered by the complainant as discriminatory in nature.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by *Mr. Todd Fraley*, seconded by *Mr. Francisco Limon* to approve the letter of support to help the North Carolina Human Relations Commission with their efforts advocating for affordable and accessible housing for our most vulnerable populations; and, to support their efforts in advancing human relations for North Carolina residents. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Community Dialogues

Rev. Rod Debs provided information to the Council regarding racial equity dialogues and explained to different models to the Council. Those models are:

- World Café, a method which makes use of simple, effective, and flexible format for hosting large group dialogue. It is a creative process for leading collaborative dialogue, sharing knowledge and creating possibilities for action in groups of all sizes. This technique builds on the notion of group intelligence. By organizing several discussion rounds where people are invited to discuss a topic of mutual interest in small groups, the technique enables bringing together individual ideas into one comprehensive message.
- Story Circle, a small group of individuals sitting in a circle, sharing stories—usually from their own experience or imagination—focusing on **a common theme**. As each person in turn shares a story, a richer and more complex story emerges.

Members briefly discussed the possibility of hosting dialogues; however, no logistics were offered regarding a focus area for an upcoming dialogue.

D. Open Meeting Agenda

Members expressed concerns regarding the followings challenges for the Council:

- In-person meetings only. Many things have changed due to the pandemic. Members spoke briefly about the possibility of the City implementing/using the hybrid meeting method. The hybrid method will allow members to attend meetings in-person or virtually.

- Resume with orientation for new members. Create a method for educating new members when appointed to serve on the Council.
- Make plans to host the Council's annual planning retreat. The purpose of the retreat will provide an opportunity for the Council to discuss plans and goals for an action or strategic plan for the next fiscal year.
- Determination of a quorum for Boards and Commissions. The composition of the Council is 18 members. When there are vacancies, the quorum should be based on the number of current members. Therefore, the quorum for the Council should be seven (7) plus one (1). Staff will send an email to the City Clerk requesting clarification for calculating a quorum.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion was made by *Ms. Olive Barrett*, seconded by *Mr. Francisco Limon*, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Daniels

Cassandra Daniels
Human Relations Officer