

**PROPOSED MINUTES
BY GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 22, 2016**

The Greenville Human Relations Council (GHRC) met Wednesday, September 22, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the third floor conference room #337, located on the third floor of City Hall. Members present denoted by *, members absent denoted by x.

Samar Badwan-* Isaac Chemmanam-x Isaac Blount-* Jim Cox-* Lloyd Horton -*
Byung Lee -* Prudencio Martinez-Mengel-* Joyce Mitchell-* Kathy Moore-*
Bill Neely-* Franchine Peña-* Heena Shah-* Bonnie Snyder-x Jake Srednicki-x
Rajesh Verma-x Ritvik Verma-x

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

Other(s): Nancy Colville

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Several announcements were provided about upcoming community events.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Bill Neely, seconded by Jim Cox, to approve the August 25, 2016 minutes with the necessary corrections, if there be any. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Inclusive Community Breakfast

Byung Lee stated the Inclusive Community Breakfast was great. Feedback from the Council indicated those attending the breakfast provided good, positive reviews about the event. One hundred and thirty-seven residents registered and approximately one-hundred and thirty four attended. Council members stated the message presented by Bob Williams, Executive Director of Community Crossroads, was very positive; and he did an excellent job talking about the community. The Council also stated it was inspiring to learn that private residents of Greenville provided funding for the new facility.

Jim Cox stated since Bob Williams did not want an honorarium, he declined. He suggested maybe members of the Council, as a group, could make a donation to the shelter. **Samar Badwan** suggested that Community Crossroads be recognized at the awards ceremony in February. **Joyce Mitchell** stated the diversity of the breakfast was great. It was very much inclusive of the Greenville community. **Byung Lee** stated that he was glad to hear Bob Williams refer to Greenville, as one Greenville; not West Greenville, South Greenville, etc.

Bill Neely asked if members had volunteered at Community Crossroads to serve a meal. Volunteering there would help you understand how important and broad that ministry is. Sometime when someone is looking for a place to stay he recommends Community Crossroads. There are rooms available for families. One thing most of us don't realize is that we are only three or four months from becoming homeless. **Jim Cox** stated if the Council is interested in coordinating a tour, Bob is willing to host the tour. **Heena Shah** asked if Community

Crossroads only take monetary donations. Jim Cox stated that organizations and churches provide the meals in the evening. Breakfast is provided by Community Crossroads from a grant they received. However, paper products, cleaning supplies, etc. are things they need.

9/11 Event

Byung Lee stated the 9/11 Event “A Day to Remember” was held at the Courthouse on Sunday, September 11th at 3:00 pm. The event was well attended; in spite of the heat. The event was held to honor survivors and pay tribute to lives lost on September 11, 2001. Speakers on the program did an excellent job, including members of the Council and the young lady that sung the National Anthem did an excellent job as well.

Sister City Program

Byung Lee stated the Mayor wrote a letter to the Yeon-Su City; explaining the exchange of culture and students with the possibility of developing a prosperous business and economic relationship. It is possible that officials from Yeon-Su will visit Greenville in November 2016. Byung Lee stated he is not sure of the number of people expected to visit. Byung Lee further stated Mayor Allen Thomas believe it will be sometime next year when officials from Greenville will be able to return a visit to Yeon-Su. Hopefully, the Human Relations Council and City Council will be able to work together in order to move this project forward. Please refer to attached letters from Mayor Allen Thomas and Mayor of Yeonsu-gu District.

Bill Neely stated having been a part of a sister-city relationship before, it’s important that we allow people to stay in our homes and officials from Greenville stay in their homes. It is also important that those visiting from Greenville represent the diversity (makeup) of our City.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Comment Period

Cassandra Daniels stated attached with the agenda information is City Council’s policy for their public comment period. This information is provided for members of this board to review and make changes for Human Relations Council needs. Cassandra Daniels further stated this board does not necessarily need a policy, but some guidelines should be implemented when the public desire to voice their concerns before this Council.

Franchine Pena asked if the “public comment period” could be at the beginning or end of the meeting. **Cassandra Daniels** stated that’s a decision that should be decided on by this Council. **Bill Neely** asked if thirty-minutes is needed; some thought fifteen or ten minutes would be enough. **Joyce Mitchell** stated City Council’s policy states “not to exceed 30 minutes”. Therefore, it would be best that it is in place should this Council need it. The Council suggested the following:

- Public comment period will be placed on the agenda after the “welcome”.
- Public comment period not to exceed 30 minutes.
- Individual comments are limited to three minutes.

- Individual forms must be submitted to staff liaison no later than 6:00 pm.
- The form will consist of the speaker’s name, physical address and topic.

Heena Shah stated the more logistics the Council has in place, the more we take from the cohesive group we have in place by adding more restrictions and time periods. Isaac Blount stated it’s important we have some structure but at the same time, the Council has done a great job in the past and things have worked because of the flexibility. The Council has its own ordinance and the work of this board is based on that ordinance.

Bill Neely asked if it would be possible for the Council to tentatively approve the public comment period form as revised tonight and approving the updated version via e-mail. Cassandra Daniels stated yes; but later retracted and stated the Council can’t vote via e-mail.

Franchine Pena made a motion that the “public comment form” as revised be approved and that Council receives a copy of the form via e-mail, seconded by Bill Neely. Motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST TO SPEAK DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There will be a public comment period, not to exceed 30 minutes, held after the welcome at each regular meeting. Individual comments are limited to three minutes. If you wish to address the Council during this period, please sign-in at the bottom of the form and give it to the staff liaison prior to the Council meeting. Speakers will be called on in the order in which the forms are received.

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TOPIC _____

Isaac Blount asked if the Council would allow public comments at this meeting. **Cassandra Daniels** stated it’s at the pleasure of this board. **Bill Neely**, made a motion to open the floor for any public comments tonight and they be allowed three minutes, seconded by Isaac Blount. Motion carried unanimously.

Cassandra Daniels stated one person has sign in for the public comment period. Nancy Colville is here to address the Council regarding the budget.

Nancy Colville addressed the Council regarding the Human Relations Council budget. She stated she has been coming to the meetings all year and continues to request the budget. She stated she has been told by the Council that they do not know the budget and no one will tell her what it is. There has got to be a record regarding what is allocated for the Council. I insist it is public information, a matter of record and I don’t understand why this board doesn’t know. If

you don't know what the funding is how you know how much money to allocate for any projects you do. It makes no sense to me. I am very familiar with the City and how it operates because I been participating many years and this is insane. I have never been able to get Merrill Flood to come here or say what the budget or funding is. I again is requesting the funding, because it is public money and public information. How can you function without knowing how much funding you get every fiscal year and then you can find out how you can spend it?

Cassandra Daniels stated that money allocated for the Council is not a separate line item. The money is included in a line item account referred to as "special events". **Bill Neely** stated he was not sure if the Council should or need to respond. However, for years, I have worked with this Council prior to becoming an official member; and I believe that this board has to go before City Council to request allocation for special events. **Cassandra Daniels** stated the board does not go before City Council requesting funding for special events. Each department budget is submitted to City Council for their approval. There is a "special events" line item included in the department's budget. It is my understanding that money is used for any and all "special events" for the Community Development Department. There were several questions regarding how the requested amount is determined. **Cassandra Daniels** stated she believes it is based on the previous year expenditures.

Connecting People: Planting Seeds to Dismantle Racism

Cassandra Daniels stated the next community dialogue is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 2016 at 6:00 pm. The venue is Cornerstone Family Life Center. The subcommittee will be meeting in the next couple of weeks. The community dialogue will take the place of the Council regular October meeting.

Senior Citizens Annual Christmas Luncheon

Cassandra Daniels stated the senior citizens luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 11:30am. The venue is the Drew Steele Center.

2017 Annual Awards Program

Cassandra Daniels stated the Annual Awards program will take place at the Greenville Hilton on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Comments – Human Relations Council – There were no comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Samar Badwan, seconded by Jim Cox, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Daniels

Cassandra Daniels
Human Relations Officer