

**ADOPTED MINUTES
BY GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL
JANUARY 26, 2017**

The Greenville Human Relations Council (GHRC) met Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 6:00 PM in 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	Jim Cox-*	Rod Debs-*
Antonio Milton-*	Joyce Mitchell-*	Lomax Mizzelle-*	Kathy Moore-*
Bill Neely*	Franchine Peña-*	Emmett Sarkorh-*	Heena Shah-*
Jessica Stokes-*	Seok Yoon-*		

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

Other(s): Nancy Colville

Heena Shah called the meeting to order and welcomed the members to the first meeting of 2017. She further stated the Council looks forward to working with the new members and asked everyone to give a brief introduction.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

1. Heena Shah stated on February 18th, the Indian Dance Competition will take place on ECU campus. Approximately thirteen colleges are participating. The goal is to spread the dance culture throughout eastern North Carolina. Tickets are \$15.
2. Samar Badwan made the following announcements:
 - The Interfaith Pirates Better Together organization will sponsor a panel discussion on the religious perspectives on racial differences. The discussion will take place on February 16th at the Ledonia Wright Center at 6:00 pm.
 - The Interfaith Alliance of Prayers for Peace and Justice will take place on February 27th, at Mendenhall, located on the campus of ECU.

WELCOME: Heena Shah welcomed everyone and asked members to introduce themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Nancy Colville expressed her concerns about the community dialogue and she was impressed with the great information and the food was good. However, she was disappointed with the attendance. She wanted to know how the event was advertised. She wanted to know if the Council supports the agencies and if the Council could get behind those agencies and help them, especially the presenter who talked about the number of beds needed for those seeking assistance with substance abuse.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by **Bill Neely**, seconded by **Joyce Mitchell**, to approve the December 1, 2016 minutes with the necessary corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Connecting People: Planting Seeds to Dismantle Racism – Thursday, January 12, 2017 (Feedback)

Henna Shah stated she thought the dialogue was good and the material shared by the panelist and the experts provided very helpful and important information to those attending. Also, the Council was able to accomplish its main purpose for any of our dialogues and that is to engage those attending. Interesting conversations were developed, because the facilitator and presenters kept the group engaged. **Bill Neely** asked if there were concerns with the quantity of people attending. **Joyce Mitchell** stated yes. However, the quality of people there, especially the presenters were excellent. This was a makeup date for the dialogue and the content of the material presented was great and the right partners were there in order to get the message out. **Bill Neely** stated these dialogues are important because it keeps us talking to each other and that is the only way to bring a community together.

Sister City Program

Franchine Peña informed the Council of her meeting with City Manager regarding the Sister City Initiative. She stated the Sister City program will be part of the City Manager's Office and they have already joined the International Sister City program. The Council's role will be as a support to the City Manager's Office and to assist with any fundraising and any other activity they ask of the Council. They are hoping to go to South Korea in Spring of 2017. **Byung Lee** presented information on his meeting with Mayor Allen Thomas and offered the Human Relations Council tour information from a travel agency that he has used in the past. The travel agency arrangement/plan included the possibility of a tourist visit to South Korea for 25 people at a cost of \$2,500.00 - \$2,700.00. **Byung Lee** stated that for every five (5) persons, there would be one person who could travel "free of charge". After much discussion, a motion was made by **Bill Neely**, seconded by **Samar Badwan**, for the Council to meet with City Manager Lipscomb and Mayor Allen Thomas for approval of the travel agency plan as presented by Mr. Byung Lee; and if approved, to move forward with the plan as presented. Motion passed with a vote of 12:1 with Ms. Lomax Mizzelle voting in opposition.

2017 Annual Awards Program

Heena Shah stated the annual awards program is scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 2017 at the Greenville Hilton. **Cassandra Daniels** stated the event is on the City's calendar and the nomination form is open and available. Currently, the Council has received three (3) nominations. The deadline for accepting nominations is January 31st. If possible, the deadline may have to be extended for accepting nominations.

NEW BUSINESS

February 2017 Community Dialogue

Cassandra Daniels stated that Mr. Mullis with the Greenville Museum of Art (GMA) is interested in a partnership to sponsor a community dialogue on race relations. The memo from Mr. Mullis is attached to the back of your information. After much discussion, a motion was made by Bill Neely, seconded by Joyce Mitchell, that the Council partner with GMA and that the community dialogue will take the place of the Council's regular meeting of Thursday, March 23, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Connecting People: Planting Seeds to Dismantle Racism (Community Dialogues)

Cassandra Daniels stated the following months were discussed as possible dates for community dialogues: (1) June 2017 and (2) October 2017. Since the Council has decided to partner with GMA to host a community dialogue on Race Relations in March, is there a need for a June and October dialogue? A motion was made by Samar Badwan, seconded by Jim Cox, to remove the June 2017 date from the Council's agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

New Fair Housing Rules and Tools Workshop – Thursday, February 2, 2017

Cassandra Daniels informed the Council of the New Fair Housing Rules and Tools Workshop scheduled for Thursday, February 2, 2017 from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to local governments and the housing industry on HUD's model Assessment of Fair Housing and data tools that can inform local plans and insights into how fair housing relates to land use and transportation policies. The workshop is a part of the City of Greenville's efforts to affirmatively further fair housing.

Rescheduling November (11/23) and December (12/28) 2017 meetings

Cassandra Daniels stated the November and December meetings are during Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Franchine Peña, seconded by Bill Neely, to combine the November and December meetings and the meeting date is changed to Thursday, December 7, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments – Human Relations Council Members – No comments

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Daniels

Cassandra Daniels
Human Relations Officer