

**MINUTES  
BY GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2020**

The Greenville Human Relations Council (GHRC) met Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 6:00 PM via Zoom. Members absent denoted by x.

Samar Badwan-*	Olive Barrett-*	Montez Bishop-*	Jim Cox-*
Rod Debs-*	Todd Fraley-x	Roopa Gandhi-x	Shane Knight-*
Francisco Limon-*	Antonio Milton-*	Lomax Mizzelle-*	Franchine Peña-*
Mark Rasdorf-x	LaQuon Rogers-*	Heena Shah-*	Deborah Shepard-*

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

**Samar Badwan, Chair** called the meeting to order and welcomed the members to the Thursday, September 24, 2020 meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS - None**

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - None**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Francisco Limon, seconded by Jim Cox, to approve the August 27, 2020 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

***GAME P.L.A.Y***

**Staff** informed the Council that at the August meeting Shane Knight requested that GAME P.L.A.Y be placed on the September agenda to give the co-creators of GAME P.L.A.Y an opportunity to develop a solution that would keep youth and all others involved safe due to the pandemic. Dion Dail and Gera Miles presented options that would ensure the safety of all participants.

**Dion Dail** stated two teams (an officer and a youth) will be engaged in nonviolent competitive games that will be filmed by a videographer. The video from both teams will be edited and used to start conversations at different schools, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc.

**Gera Miles** stated the main focus of GAME P.L.A.Y revolves around the intermission or breakout sessions where youth are granted opportunities to speak with officers about anything. The entire interaction can be filmed and edited which will allow the video to be shown at various facilities via zoom or on YouTube. YouTube will allow people to interact from their homes or any facility. The idea of having teams will allow for a successful and safe event. Sport games (NBA, football, Madden Games) are the best nonviolent games for competition. There can be a commentary that will comment on what the teams are doing. This will make it interactive and fun. This is very

doable and safe. **Dion Dail** stated if the preference is to have it live, it will have to be broadcasted via YouTube. People will have the ability to login and interact with the teams.

**Rod Debs**, asked if there is a need to have conversations with police making sure they can visualize what this is and getting feedback from the police? **Dion Dail** stated that law enforcement has been involved with GALME P.L.A.Y events, and they are prepared. Sgt. Richard Williams has provided input for the event; and law enforcement are fully capable of interacting with the youth. **Trisha Vu** asked how students for the two teams will be selected and what kind of feedback was received from previous events. **Dion Dail** stated, the committee is working with our partners of the event (Boys and Girls Club and Covenant Church) who will assist with selecting youth. The feedback has been positive. Since there has always been negative feelings about police and minorities, the breakout sessions are used to build trust and to help both sides understand various situations. **Gera Miles** stated GAME P.L.A.Y is an avenue for opening doors and planting seeds for conversations to continue. It's about humanity, acknowledging each other's humanity as people. Youth get to see a police officer smile. In reality, this is not something that is seen that often.

**LaQuon Rogers** stated the challenge is doing it virtually, but I believe the leaders of GAME P.L.A.Y has everything worked out. **Montez Bishop** stated he believe everything voiced by the leaders of GAME P.L.A.Y covers the concerns voiced at the August meeting. **Heena Shah** stated the leaders has presented an out of the box event that is safe for youth and law enforcement officers involved.

A motion was made by **Heena Shah**, seconded by **Olive Barrett**, to move forward with the event and allowing the co-creators of GAME P.L.A.Y to decide on the option (YouTube and/or Zoom). Motion carried unanimously.

### **SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

**Staff** informed the Council that after speaking with Vice-Chair Franchine Pena, the only possible solution is to partner with restaurants that would a prepare lunch "bag/box" for our seniors. **Vice-Chair** suggested the following eateries: The Seahorse, Parkers and Plum Tree. Also, we should continue using law enforcement officers and fire rescue personnel to assist with delivering the meals.

A motion was made by Francisco Limon, second by LaQuon Rogers, to move forward provided a partnership is established with a restaurant. Motion carried unanimously.

### **BLACK LIVES MATTER MURAL**

**Deborah Shepard** provided an update to the Council and stated the committee has met with city council members (zoom/phone) and the following recommendations were suggested:

1. BLM = Black Lives Do Matter (BLDM), and
2. Mural is placed on parking deck or private street

The Black Lives Matter Subcommittee is pushing for First Street. The lead artist is Mr. Randall Leach, an Art Teacher with J. H. Rose High School. The subcommittee is soliciting letters of support from organizations, agencies, etc.

**Montez Bishop** asked if there were other options, other than a parking deck, sidewalk, and a private street. **Deborah Shepard** suggested the street in front of City Hall, if not First Street. **Olive Barrett** suggested Greene Street, where the Greenville Police Department and Fire/Rescue Headquarters are located. **Vice-Chair, Franchine Pena**, asked what the concerns were:

- Black Lives Do Matter Mural will cause violence in our community,
- Afraid it will spark violence and protests in our community,
- Don't think it will be safe on the street,
- May be vandalized, and
- Concerned with traffic issues.

**Deborah Shepard** also noted that when the Confederate Monument was removed, there were no issues with violence or protests.

## NEW BUSINESS

### ***ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY – 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY***

**Staff** stated the award ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, February 27, 2021. Also, there will be a meeting with the Hilton regarding their availability to host large events; and what will social distancing look like for this event.

**Rod Debs** stated the purpose is a public celebration for nominees and their families, friends, and supporters for the service they render to the community. Are there resources available to create a virtual celebration via video? **Staff** stated, the City may have to tap into individuals from other city departments. **Rod Debs** suggested showing the nominees and having someone speak to how they have served the community. **Jim Cox** stated, the history of the event should be a part of the program, in terms of recognizing 50 years of accomplishments, including the history of Dr. Andrew Best and Dr. Malene Irons.

### ***LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD***

**Staff** reminded everyone that only Human Relations Council members are allowed to nominate someone for this award. Therefore, it is not a part of the online nomination information.

### ***RACIAL EQUITY INSTITUTE TRAINING***

**Chair, Samar Badwan** stated she heard information about the Racial Equity training from Kylene Dibble, the Executive Director of Parents for Pitt County Schools and from Ann Wall, City Manager. The training is 3-hours and available to 100 participants in leadership roles. The cost of the training will be divided among the partners. Dr. Lenker, Pitt County Schools Superintendent, is interested in the training and would like for city officials to partner.

**Montez Bishop** stated it would be a great opportunity for us to participate. For years, the focus was about equality. Equity has been overlooked and some don't really understand what that means. **Antonio Milton** questioned if there could/would be a commitment of City Council members to participate in the training? **Samar Badwan** stated that would be their choice. **Heena Shah** asked if partnerships could be expanded to ECU (Brody School of Medicine). There is systematic inequity in the admission process at Brody. **Rod Debs** stated he would like to reemphasize that City Council and leaders of the City be given first consideration. We can't make them, but we can encourage them to participate. **Chair, Samar Badwan** stated she would share the information with the City Manager. This will be a great opportunity for not only elected officials, but for members of this Council to participate.

### ***RESCHEDULING OF MEETINGS***

Due to Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the Council decided to reschedule their November and December meetings. A motion was made by **Vice-Chair, Franchine Pena**, seconded by **Olive Barrett**, to reschedule the November meeting for November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, and the December meeting for December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

### ***COMMENTS***

**Vice-Chair, Franchine Pena**, reminded everyone to register for the State-wide Human Relations Commission, scheduled for Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. In order to attend, you have to RSVP.

### ***ADJOURN***

There being no further business, a motion was made by **Vice-Chair, Franchine Pena**, seconded by **Olive Barrett**, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cassandra Daniels*

Cassandra Daniels  
Human Relations Officer