

**MINUTES**  
**BY GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL**  
**April 22, 2021**

The Greenville Human Relations Council (GHRC) met Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 6:00 PM via Zoom. Members absent denoted by x.

Samar Badwan-*	Olive Barrett-*	Montez Bishop-*	Jim Cox-x
Rod Debs-*	Todd Fraley-*	Shane Knight-x	Francisco Limon-x
Antonio Milton-*	Lomax Mizzelle-*	Franchine Peña-*	LaQuon Rogers-*
Heena Shah-*	Deborah Sheppard-x	Trish Vu-*	

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

**Samar Badwan, Chair** called the meeting to order and welcomed the members to the Thursday, April 22, 2021 meeting. Due to the pandemic, a lot of things have changed. The Council has sponsored less community dialogues, events, and seminars. For tonight’s meeting, there is no set agenda. . However, the Council has the option to use the “**open agenda**” process, giving members of the Council an opportunity to bring up concerns or items they think the Council should or may need to focus on for 2021 fiscal year.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS - None**

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - None**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by **Dr. LaQuon Rogers**, seconded by **Mr. Montez Bishop**, to approve the January 28<sup>th</sup> and February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 minutes with the necessary corrections.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Inclusive Community Event**

**Mr. Logan Harrison** presented an update regarding the City’s Inclusive Community Event. This event which normally take place on a Thursday at the Hilton will be an outdoor event catered for the Greenville community. The Committee is planning for a “Walk for our Heroes. The walk will start at a central point (City Hall) to the Town Common. There will be a proclamation/resolution for the Mayor to read, entertainment and a speaker. Hopefully, the City will be able to provide individuals with a face mask with the City’s emblem.

**B. Annual Award Ceremony**

The Human Relations Council will observe their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Saturday, February 26, 2022. The Committee met on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. The Committee discussed the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program Booklet and what should be included: letters from Mayor, City Manager, Pitt County Delegation and original artwork from Mr. Randall Leech.

**Open Agenda**

**Rev. Rod Debs** spoke about the background information for the Immigrant Advisory Subcommittee. There were questions regarding an International Festival. Staff informed the Council there is an International Festival hosted by Uptown Greenville and ECU. Also, the

Catholic Church has an International Festival and there has been conversations regarding the possibility of the Council partnering with the Catholic Church. **Rev. Rod Debs** asked where the Council start to partner with the Catholic Church should. **Vice-Chair Franchine Pena** stated Rev. Bob Hudak would be the best place to start because he was going to contact the Priest at St. Gabriel's Church.

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**Mr. Todd Fraley** provide an update regarding the resurfacing project for First Street. He spoke with one of the students who is a member of the black artist group who painted "Unite against Racism", and according to him, the resurfacing project will not start until July.

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**Mr. Montez Bishop** stated he would like to challenge the Council to think of ways to engage the community by bringing them together because of social injustices that the country is facing. The Council should continue to speak outside the box and bring new ideas to the table.

**Ms. Trish Vu** stated an appreciation for our first responders, teachers, nurses, etc. expressing our gratitude and appreciation. The appreciation could be in the form of a resolution from the Mayor, before September.

**Mr. Todd Fraley** stated this gives the Council an opportunity to expand, letting the community know who we are (the Council). Sometimes we walk or ride pass communities (not intentional) and never stop to speak or talk to people in various areas of the community (mosque, temple, etc.)

**Mr. Logan Harrison** stated an idea for the Inclusive Community event. The Council along with the community can walk to different areas of the city and at each location, allow someone from that community to speak. Also, have the Mayor to read the proclamation. **Mr. Montez Bishop** stated the speaker(s), should deliver a message of hope; bringing people together and aspire people to lay our differences aside.

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**Rev. Rod Debs** stated it has been a year since the country has experienced so much hurt and pain due to injustice. Is there a way for the Council to take a moment of silence; and, for those who would like, give them an opportunity to provide expressions if they are moved to do so. After the moment of silence, **Rev. Rod Debs** stated we hold one another in our hearts and this country.

## ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Olive Barrett, seconded by Mr. Logan Harrison, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cassandra Daniels*

Cassandra Daniels  
Human Relations Officer