

**ADOPTED MINUTES OF THE
GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL
January 27, 2022**

The Greenville Human Relations Council (GHRC) met Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 6:00 PM via Zoom. Members absent denoted by x.

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

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

Samar Badwan, Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed the members to the Thursday, January 27th meeting. Members introduced themselves and greeted new members with enthusiasm and stated they are looking forward to working with everyone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Francisco Limon, seconded by Todd Fraley, to approve the minutes of June – September, 2021. Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Annual Award Ceremony

Cassandra Daniels, stated this item has been on the agenda for some time. The Council did not have a quorum at their November or December meeting to make a decision about the 2022 event. As staff liaison, you are encouraged to make a decision regarding the upcoming award ceremony. Previous discussions about the event described possible suggestions for the celebration. Due to uncertainties surrounding the pandemic and the fact that Pitt County is still in the “red”, the Council remain concerned with the safety and well-being of Greenville and Pitt County communities. Suggestions discussed earlier are:

1. An event on a smaller scale at City Hall. Invitees will include nominees and their immediately family members: parents, grandparents, children, siblings
2. Proclamation and a statement from the HRC regarding the Council’s Fifty Anniversary and the work of the Council.
3. An outdoor event (Town Common). City of Greenville facilities are open to the public a challenge will be the Council not able to control foot traffic.
4. Congratulatory video.
5. Not to cancel; but, to postpone and have an event later in 2022; sometime around April or May.

Vice-Chair Franchine Pena, stated she believe having an event in July or August is better than having it sooner. Since the Council is concern about the safety and well-being of the community, a focus on the 50th Anniversary itself and not nominations could be the way to go. **Rod Debs** stated this event should go back to the committee for them to create recommendations; and, those recommendations are brought back to the Council. **Cassandra Daniels** stated the Council loses valuable time – between the time the Committee meet and the Council’s regular meeting. **Francisco Limon**, stated the Council could celebrate the 50th Anniversary in July or August. In February 2023 the Council can return to their annual award ceremony, including accepting nominations. **Chairperson, Samar Badwan** stated she has reservations about having the 50th Anniversary. The possibility of having a back to back event, can mean more work and in the process, the Council may lose focus on the importance of the 50th Anniversary. **Todd Fraley** asked if other City boards and commissions are hosting events. **Cassandra Daniels** stated she’s not sure. This Council has to try and figure this out, stick with their decision and move forward. **Francisco Limon** stated based on what has occurred with the Omicron wave, infections are going down. Within five (5) – six (6) weeks, things are going to be better. We can asked that they wear a mask, because the Council will have no way of knowing if people are vaccinated. **Procopio Seranno** stated he would defer to guidance for COVID protocol for the City. Also, I’m hesitant to speculate what it will be like during the summer. **Lomax Mizzell** and **Olive Barrett**, spoke about having a virtual event and what would an outdoor event look like. Again, an outdoor event would create some challenges; such as, foot traffic. You can’t deny others from using public space (Town Common). In addition, it would be difficult to plan and prepare for a reception for an outdoor city event. **Liz Liles** stated the Council could use the 50th Anniversary as an opportunity to educate the community about the history of the Council or the Council can consider creating a campaign (why we are here, who we are, who we serve, how to get involved, and why we exist) using the media to tell our story, building awareness of the Council’s roles and responsibilities. **Rod Debs** stated the Council can create a video event providing a retrospective view about Best and Irons that will include ethnic entertainment.

Members of the Council discussed the possibility of requesting the Mayor to mandate a mask is worn for a city event. **Cassandra Daniels**, stated the Mayor will probably follow guidelines established by the Governor. Not sure if the Mayor can mandate mask wearing for the Greenville community. **Cassandra Daniels** further suggested that she seek advice from her supervisor, before the Council make a request for the Mayor’s consideration. In the meantime, the award ceremony committee will meet and try to establish plans for the 50th Anniversary.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Leadership Meetings with Mayor and City Manager

Vice-Chair Franchine Pena spoke about Todd Fraley and Lomax Mizzell suggestion regarding how to display or showcase the diversity of Greenville (LGBTQ – changing of light bulb). This is worth presenting at a Leadership meeting for discussion. Also, the

suggestion from Rod Debs that Council members rotate attending those meetings, will allow others an opportunity to participate and discuss any topic/issues with the Mayor and City Manager.

B. 2022 Meeting Schedule

Cassandra Daniels stated meetings for November and Decembers interferes with City designated holidays. Suggested dates/times will be placed on the Council's February meeting.

C. Remote Meeting Checklist and Rules

Cassandra Daniels stated this material was provided as information. Please note the requirements for remote meetings.

D. Election of Officers

Cassandra Daniels stated the Council will hold elections soon. Please think about who you would like to have lead the Council.

E. Open Meeting Agenda: No comments

ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion was made by Vice-Chair Franchine Pena, seconded by Olive Barrett to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Daniels

Cassandra Daniels
Human Relations Officer