

**PROPOSED MINUTES  
BY GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL  
March 6, 2013**

The Greenville Human Relations Council (GHRC) met Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the third floor conference room (Room 337) of City Hall. Members present denoted by \*, members absent denoted by x.

Enji Abdo-*	Marvin Arrington-*	Rodney Coles-*
Lloyd Horton-x	Robert Hudak -x	Byung Lee-*
Shaterica Lee-*	Prudencio Martinez-Mengel-x	Helen Pase-*
Franchine Pena-*	Heena Shah-*	Maurice Whitehurst-*
Bonnie Snyder-*		

Rose Glover, Mayor Pro-Tem-x      Cassandra Daniels, Staff Liaison-\*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rodney Coles stated this month is National Nutrition Month. Events will take place in the Monroe Building on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 – 7:30 night. Nutrition snacks will be made available.

### **WELCOME**

The Council welcomed Helen Pase to the Council.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Rodney Coles, seconded by Heena Shah to approve the December 2012 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Franchine Pena, seconded by Bonnie Snyder to approve the February 2013 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

### **INCIDENT REPORT**

Cassandra Daniels stated that she is entering data on the form and it should be available for the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **HRC Annual Award Ceremony and Reception - Feedback**

Members of the Council stated the event was very successful. Some of the descriptive wording was “fantastic, it is getting better and better each year, no competing with noise from other events, diversity was wonderful. However, concerns were voiced regarding lighting and mobility issues. There was very little light where the podium was located and there were concerns for those who were not able or had difficulty getting on the stage for the photo shoot.

Cassandra Daniels stated the event was great, even better than last year’s ceremony. However, the Council has to find ways to help cover the cost of the event. Some people say that the large attendance is because there is no fee associated with the event. Nevertheless, in support of this Council and the work that the Council does, it is my belief that people attend because of the program and the fact that this event actually speaks to the goals of this Council and that of City Council;

especially the City's inclusive initiative. Even when the Council was selling \$12 - \$15 tickets, attendance was still good. I recall at least 200-250 people attending at that time. It's all about the program and the timeframe in when people are willing to give up some of their weekend. If people know what's expected in terms of cost, for an event on this level, they may be willing to sacrifice \$5 or \$10. The focus for the Council now is to generate definitive ways to continue the road we've travelled for the last two years by including a cost per person and provide to the public a great program and meal.

Franchine Pena asked if the City would have to augment or will the City have to pay for the entire event? Cassandra Daniels responded that we will have to pay for the entire event. The City paid the Hilton a little over \$8,000 last year and a little more than \$8,100 this year.

Franchine Pena stated that because City Council sees this board as an extension of arms to the people, by bringing different people; i.e. diversity they would want to share in the cost of the event.

Cassandra Daniels stated each department is allocated their own budget, and are expected to operate within the allocations. The special events allocation for this budget year has been used. Therefore, Merrill Flood had to pull monies from other line item accounts to cover the costs of this one event. Costs associated with this event consist of: the Hilton, the Trophy Case, photographer and entertainment. Breakdown of costs: Hilton \$8,100; Trophy Case \$1,079; Blount's Photography \$375; and Steve Creech \$650.

Cassandra Daniels further stated the Council awarded each youth an award. What's going to happen if 20 young people are nominated? Are we going to award all 20 individuals? Realizing we don't want to discourage young people for their volunteerism efforts, but there has to be a way to award them for their services.

Rodney Coles stated that if we start charging people, they will not attend. I agree that sponsorships will be the best way to help cover the expenses of this event. Don't want the Council to start selling tickets and people don't attend. Also, we could implement a combination of ways to supplement the event, such as sponsorships and/or a group/organization may want to sponsor a table. I don't believe selling tickets would be the appropriate way to go.

Marvin Arrington stated that one way to award the youth would be to provide them with a nice certificate.

Byung Lee stated that sponsorships would be a way to supplement this event.

Heena Shah stated that if the Council has sold tickets in the past and had to beg people to attend, she agrees that the best way to supplement the event is through sponsorships.

Helen Pase asked about the budget for the Council.

Cassandra Daniels stated she believe the budgeted amount for the fiscal year was between \$13 - \$15 thousand dollars. Those funds had to cover the cost of the following: Annual Award Ceremony and Reception, Fair Housing seminars, Inclusive Community Breakfast, and BIC Stakeholders (unexpected cost) meetings.

Franchine Pena asked about City photographers and why can't they assist with the event. Cassandra Daniels stated that the Public Information Office is short staff. Franchine Pena asked if the Council could request the assistance from the Public Information Office.

Rodney Coles asked how often are events shown on GTV-9 and if the City has staff that does photography or someone that can record these events, why can't they assist when needed?

There were concerns regarding the Daily Reflector (article) and the photographer (quality of work).

Cassandra Daniels stated that she's not sure of work schedules in or outside of her department. However, Jonathan did come last year and record the event. However, he was not available this year. Maybe the best way to handle this situation is to draft correspondence on behalf of the Council and the Council can review and make whatever changes they deem necessary and address it to Merrill Flood; and he will be responsible for addressing the Council concerns with the City Manager.

Byung Lee stated the Council has to do more for these events and not allow the workload fall on one staff person. Next year we should be assigned different elements of the project; such as i.e. Public Relations, Photography, etc.

Bonnie Snyder stated we have tremendous lead time to request the needed resources for 2014 events. If the City has employees that can assist, now is the time to ask. We know the dates of all of our annual events, so we have to take the initiative and let them know this is what we need and when it is needed.

### **Fair Housing Month**

Cassandra Daniels stated that National Fair Housing Month is April 2013. The Council and their partners have worked hard to improve on every aspect of scheduled events. Two seminars are offered one for tenants and one for property managers/landlords. Events are scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup>. and 24<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the Council and their partners will host the City's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Poster Contest.

### **Neighborhood Symposium**

Cassandra Daniels the symposium is scheduled for Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. It will take place at City Hall. The subcommittee has requested that a topic relating to the BIC stakeholders work be included on the agenda. Marvin Arrington and I will meet this month to discuss further and to prepare presentation for the event.

### **Death w/Interruptions**

Franchine Pena reminded the Council that the Council has partner with The End of Life Coalition to host a facilitated book discussion on the book "Death With Interruptions. The discussion will take place in the Council Chambers on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Citizen Exchange Program**

Maurice Whitehurst stated that the Citizen Exchange Program is a project that gives someone else an opportunity to see how the other half is, whatever the half is. Someone would have to oversee the program; not necessarily staff. However, the overseer will have to be responsible for the data base of individuals who would want to shadow another person.

Byung Lee stated he would be glad to shadow someone but he is not sure if someone would be able to shadow his business or if he would allow it.

The Council discussed the issues of liability and confidentiality that many companies/organizations would be concerned with.

Heena Shah stated that a lot of organizations/businesses will allow you to follow them; however, they will not let you touch machinery or any other type of equipment.

Franchine Pena asked if this would be an HRC sponsored program and we would be responsible for marketing the program and getting information out to the public.

Maurice Whitehurst stated he was aware of the safety issues that a company/organization would be concerned with. However, the business side is secondary. He was more interested in the personal side, where a person could shadow an individual for a day. This would provide an opportunity for people to learn how to interact with other people; it could teach a young lady or young man how to respect themselves, neighbors, and their parents as well. What the person is trying to learn is the other person's experiences.

### **Prayer – City Council Meetings**

Maurice Whitehurst stated the Southern Christian Leadership Conference has table this item until later date.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Bonnie Snyder, seconded by Franchine Pena, to adjourn until the first Wednesday night in April. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cassandra Daniels*

Cassandra Daniels  
Human Relations Officer