

**PROPOSED MINUTES
BY GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL
May 1, 2013**

The Greenville Human Relations Council (GHRC) met Wednesday, May 1, 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-x	Marvin Arrington-x	Rodney Coles-*
Loyd Horton-*	Robert Hudak -x	Byung Lee-x
Shaterica Lee-*	Prudencio Martinez-Mengel-*	Helen Pase-*
Franchine Pena-*	Heena Shah-*	Maurice Whitehurst-*
Bonnie Snyder-x		

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS – No announcements

WELCOME

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Loyd Horton, seconded by Franchine Pena, to approve the April 2013 minutes with the following corrections: Byng (Byung), Elder Touch Your Heart (Elder Touch of Heart), and specify (specific). Motion carried unanimously.

INCIDENT REPORT

Request – Johann Bleicher

Members of the Council reviewed the information provided by Johann Bleicher regarding his rental unit, located at Locksley Woods. The package included police reports, police incident reports and correspondence to Johann Bleicher from Locksley Woods Homeowners Association.

Franchine Pena stated that based on the information provided, the types of calls consisted of domestic violence, disturbing the peace and dispute. According to the police reports, the calls were unfounded or unable to locate – which may tend to mean, the tenant is not coming to the door or the noise has subsided when police arrives.

Helen Pase stated she's familiar with what's going on at Locksley Woods and that Mr. Bleicher has not put his concerns in writing to the Homeowners Association. His unit is an upstairs unit, over a unit which was previously purchased by a new owner. There has been complaint after complaint; noise all hours of the night, children spitting on people from the balcony, chicken bones being thrown in the shrubs, dogs pooping on the yard and tenants not cleaning it up, tenants fighting with their visitors, knocking on the neighbors door all times of night...begging for cigarettes, people coming and going all the times of night, people sitting in their cars blowing their horns, etc. Helen stated that she recently witnessed a drug deal and there is a sexual predator that lives there in the home with the small children. In addition, it was stated, the tenant is a single parent that receives Section 8.

Loyd Horton stated that the tenant was a “freeloader”. Cassandra Daniels stated that if a resident receives assistance in paying their rent, utilities or is a food stamp recipient that does not mean that they are a “freeloader”. It is important that we chose our words carefully, especially when we are describing the attitude or what we assume to be the attitude of any race of people.

Franchine Pena stated her concern is that every time the police came out, nothing is indicated on the reports that anything was going on.

Mayor Pro-Tem Glover stated she is helping a young lady at Nathaniel Village that is going through the same thing. Children are going to make noise and parents don’t put their children to bed like our parents did. Children are allowed to stay up and play, watch television, etc. When situations are unfounded and if the police don’t believe there is ground to prepare a report, there isn’t much we can do, and decisions are based on those police reports.

Helen Pase stated when we learned that a sexual predator was living on the property, we notified the police and they put him out. However, since that time he has returned to the property and we believe he is back.

Heena Shah asked why the owner doesn’t have the tenant comply with the homeowner association bylaws.

Helen Pase stated the owners are responsible for their tenant actions.

After much discussion regarding the situation and the Council learned that Mr. Johann Belicher has an attorney to represent him in this matter, it was concluded that there was nothing the Council could do to assist him.

OLD BUSINESS

Fair Housing Month Feedback

It was the consensus of the Council that the seminars for tenants and property managers were excellent and successful. The presenter, Ken Szymanski, for both seminars did an excellent job. Seminars on both days were well attended.

Neighborhood Symposium

Cassandra Daniels reminded the Council of the symposium that will take place this Saturday, May 4, 2013. The Council is responsible for registration from 8:00 – 11:30 am.

Citizen Exchange Program

Maurice Whitehurst stated the program would give residents an opportunity to shadow a business or a neighbor (youth shadow elderly). However, 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. Again, issues of liability, confidentiality and safety became a concern of the Council.

Whose going to protect my group...HUD guidelines we cover lifght the guildelines.....guidelines and restraints.....a disclaimer....pros and cons....inclusive because we stepped outside the box Ways to increase our inclusivity....

Cassandra Daniels stated that something of this magnitude would have to be approved by City Council.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rose Glover suggested the program be recommended to Pitt Community College. There are a number of programs offered at the college that would allow students to shadow staff. Franchine Pena agreed with Mayor Pro-Tem Glover and offered a motion recommending that the Citizen Exchange Program be presented to Pitt Community College. Heena Shah seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Photo Contest

Prudencio Martinez-Mengel stated at the April meeting, the Council discussed the possibility of a photo contest. Cassandra, Heena and I met with Steve Hawley to discuss the idea and get his thoughts about the project. The subcommittee believes it will be in the best interest of the Council to start with a pilot project. As a pilot project, the Council will be able to ascertain the feasibility and effectiveness of the project. If the project is considered successful in the first year, the Council will have the option of expanding next year.

Steve Hawley explained that City Council is developing a new branding for the City that will help promote the city as the place where people would want to live, work and visit. Because branding is based on what already exists in the community, the photo contest could be used to describe what Greenville has to offer. There are three categories that is part of the branding message and they are: Live, Work, and Play. The Council can incorporate these categories into the photo contest by submitting pictures that define residents lifestyles as they Live, everyday life; Work, people at work; and Play, everything recreational.

There were several questions regarding “branding” for the City. Responses were: (1) branding is a way to promote what a city has to offer, (2) attractions that would make people want to live here, (3) it’s a punch line, logo, etc., and (4) branding for our city could establish Greenville as the HUB or capital of Eastern North Carolina.

Mayor Pro-Tem Glover stated the brand name for our city is “We’re More Than You Think”. Prudencio Martinez-Mengel stated that through this project, this Council can show people who Greenville is and what it has to offer.

Prudencio Martinez-Mengel continued by explaining the process. The Council consists of a diverse group of people, which represents our city. Members of the Council will be responsible for submitting ten photos for the project. The Council can give Greenville a set of faces to go along with the new branding. Every photo must tell a story....it’s a way to see the City through the eyes of others...photography. In addition, we hope to partner with local sponsors (ASAP, Blount’s Photography, etc.) and local artists for judging purposes. The Council wants pictures to display what’s happening in our communities; therefore, pictures must be taken in Greenville.

The topic of religion would be powerful. Not necessary a video but pictures. Not good for us to focus on religion....piggy back on some....it not

Religion, gender, race, language, sexual orientation, economic, education, obesity (health issues), disability, age, family status.....start off with a picture of him (Dr. King).....Dr. King's voice....saying I have a dream one day.....will not be judged by my religion.....(show all these people worshipping), will not be judged by my gender.....(show pictures of people); that will be much easier to edit. Think will provide the biggest impact.....positive lasting impact.....it covers a lot....actually, it covers everything....iconic picture of Dr. King.....no writing "vocal – voice" no writing.....making pledges

Pictures....clip of Dr. King.... Iconic picture....pictures out in the community....Greenville bldg an inclusive community.....people can see visuals....celebrate the impact this movement has made on our community....what Greenville was like than.....and where we are now.....Greenville then and Now and focus on positive....where we are today and celebrate all the achievements. Dr. King's copyrights.....I have a dream one day.....and show few pictures of the past.....and journey into the NOW. I have a dream one day.....than someone from the Hispanic community....make a comment. What about me....you forgot me....in an effort to be inclusive.....

Rodney Coles stated perhaps the Council could partner with Eastern Photo Club. United Way, Building Hope and Third Street School recently completed a photo contest. Photos were displayed at Third Street School. In addition, it would be appropriate to get the Youth Council involved with this project.

Mayor Pro-Tem stated this is different from what United Way and Building Hope did. What this Council is doing would be beneficial to the City. The work of this project will be incorporated with the branding.

OTHER BUSINESS

Helen Pase stated she recently completed the Citizens Academy and will graduate on Thursday, May 9th at City Council meeting. It is a six-week course that is held every Tuesday and one Saturday. She stated she learned a lot about local government and encouraged everyone else to attend. The cost of the course is \$25.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Loyd Horton, seconded by Heena Shah, to adjourn until the first Wednesday night in June. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Daniels

Cassandra Daniels
Human Relations Officer