

PROPOSED MINUTES
BY GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL
May 7, 2014

The Greenville Human Relations Council (GHRC) met Wednesday, May 7, 2014 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-*	Isaac Blount-*
Rodney Coles-*	Inez Dudley-*	Loyd Horton-*
Robert Hudak -*	Byung Lee-*	Shaterica Lee-x
Prudencio Martinez-Mengel-*	Terry Parrish-*	Helen Pase-x
Franchine Pena-*	Heena Shah-*	Bonnie Snyder-*

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Several announcements were provided about upcoming community events.

WELCOME:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Franchine Pena, seconded by Isaac Blount to approve the April 2014 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Community Dialogues (Anti-Racism)

Cassandra Daniels stated Revs. Willard Bass and Stephen Angle presented to the Council and the community information about their program and conducted a workshop on anti-racism. In order for the Council to move forward, a subcommittee is needed to assist with establishing the purpose as well as the mission and vision statement for community dialogues.

Inez Dudley asked about the purpose for sponsoring anti-racism dialogues. Bob Huduk stated the Council has worked on a variety of things including the City's Inclusive Community Initiative and street signs are posted at major entrances of the City. The Council has participated in anti-racism workshops sponsored by the Episcopal Church. The real challenge is to bring people of color together and set guidelines for people who are willing to dialogue and not debate. It's important that we spend time getting to know each other and create that safe place in order for the dialogues to be effective. Participants have to slowly work into issues that have to do with defining power and looking at things such as racism and prejudices. The challenging part is institutionalizing racism and internal oppression and white privilege. It's not about shame or blame, it about trying to create a place of understanding, realizing we do see the world differently as much as we are the same.

Inez Dudley stated she is from a small town in Michigan. There were only two black students in my graduating class of 1969 out of 367 students. I have never experienced racism and have never felt inferior to anyone and it's because we treated each other with kindness. We had Hispanics, black

and white students going to school together and no one brought up race. I never experienced racism until I moved here, and that's because it's here.

Bob Hudak stated what Inez Dudley has shared is the type of positive approach the Council needs to bring people together. No clergy in Episcopal Church can be ordained to serve until they attend "Seeing the Face of God in Each Other" Anti-Racism training. The training helps us understand how our differences complement each other. As the Council move forward with this challenge, it's going to be hard work, it takes time and people who are authentic, passionate and believe in community will be able to work together.

Terry Parrish stated because of how Inez Dudley grew up and never experienced racism, she have a very important "voice" in the conversation. Her perspective will strike all people, regardless of their race, ethnicity, etc. People don't believe people can live that way and those conversations will bring uniqueness to the table.

Prudencio Martinez-Mengel stated in an article he was reading regarding the Cinco de Mayo celebration, which celebrates the defeat of the French army during the Battle of Puebla in Mexico, and should not be confused with the country's Independence Day, a school banned Americans from waving or using any kind of clothing and flags during Cinco de Mayo because it may be offensive to Mexicans during this celebration. There was a patriotic group standing in front of the school waving ole glory, and the Mexican community started bombarding them with racial comments. The school is violating the first amendment and secondly, Cinco de Mayo is not a Mexican holiday, it's an American holiday. I think both sides are wrong, prohibiting an expression of patriotism and given all the right things to Mexicans.....which is not a Mexican holiday. Is this misguided racism based on poor values? Terry Parrish stated that is the reason we should have a conversation on Cinco de Mayo.

After much discussion, the following members volunteered to serve on the subcommittee: Byung Lee, Franchine Pena, Isaac Blount, Bob Hudak, Inez Dudley, Loyd Horton and Prudencio Martinez-Mengel. The first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 6:30pm. Meeting place will be provided later.

5K Run/1M Walk

Franchine Pena stated as a reminder the Youth Council and the Human Relations Council is sponsoring the 5K Run/1M Walk to support the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. The Council has received some sponsors and is trying to increase the number of runners.

Cassandra Daniels stated she contacted Tim Garris who has a running group of at least 400 people. Bob Hudak stated he and Franchine will attend a clergy meeting and we can take flyers to the meeting. It was also suggested the flyers be placed in congregational bulletins and social media is used to help get the word out.

NEW BUSINESS

Inclusive Community Breakfast

Terry Parrish stated the Inclusive Community Breakfast is scheduled for Thursday, September 25, 2014. The subcommittee met last Thursday, May 1st, and decided on a theme, which is the City's new marketing slogan "Find Yourself in Good Company". What the subcommittee would like to do is up in the air. However, after we meet with Hilton representatives, the subcommittee will be able to provide detail information about the breakfast.

The subcommittee spoke briefly about the Photo Contest and decided it would be best if the Council would consider the Photo Contest for 2015 Inclusive Community Breakfast.

Senior Citizens Holiday Celebration

Cassandra Daniels reminded the Council of the Senior Citizens Holiday Celebration. The celebration will take place on Thursday, December 4, 2014. The event will be held at the Barnes-Ebron-Taft Community Center.

Human Relations Council Work Plan

Cassandra Daniels stated in order for the Council to move forward with seeking help for the Human Relations Office we have to produce a work plan that will need City Council's approval. Hopefully, the work plan will be complete for Human Relations Council comments, suggestions, changes or approval by December 2014 or January 2015.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Bob Hudak, seconded by Enji Abdo, to adjourn until the first Wednesday night in June. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Daniels

Cassandra Daniels
Human Relations Officer