



Human Relations Commission  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Thursday, September 12, 2024  
Festival Park Training Room, 225 Ray Ave, Suite 100

**Present:** Chairman William "Bill" Milton; Vice-Chairwoman Demetria Murphy; Secretary Crystal Edmonds

**Staff Present:** Yamile Nazar, DEI Director; Yamilet Padilla, Human Relations Specialist; Diona Curtis, Administrative Specialist

**Absent:** Commissioner Milette Herring, Commissioner Dakota Wright (Excused)

Chairman Milton called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of "How Commissioners Become Commissioners," was made by Vice-Chairwomen Murphy, seconded by Secretary Edmonds. Vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Vice-Chairwomen Murphy, seconded by Secretary Edmonds. Vote was unanimous.

**Other Business:** The Executive Committee welcomed Yamilet Padilla, Human Relation Specialist.

**NC – National Association of Human Rights Workers (NAHRW) Conference - Sept. 17-18:** Chairman Milton stated the North Carolina National Association of Human Rights Workers (NC-NAHRW) Conference is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, September 17-18. Chairman Milton stated he would take notes and discuss key takeaways from the conference at the next Human Relations Commission meeting. Ms. Nazar shared that the conference comes with a cost, but Commissioners who cannot attend the full event can volunteer and avoid the fee.

**North Carolina Hate Crimes Forum - Sept. 19, 2024:** Vice-Chairwoman Murphy stated a reminder email was sent regarding the Bias Incidents & Hate Crimes Forum that will take place on September 19, 2024. Ms. Nazar stated that three to four City Council members plan to attend, and around 190 people have registered.

Fund Raising for Annual Banquet: Chairman Milton inquired about the Casino Night Game Night idea. Ms. Nazar explained after advise from the City Attorney and the North Carolina law, the Casino Night is not permitted. Chair Murphy suggested continuing with traditional fundraising methods until more clarity on legal options is obtained. New fundraising ideas can be pursued throughout the year.

Letter for Sponsors: Chairman Milton inquired about the sponsorship letter and stated that there were questions. Vice-Chairwoman Murphy mentioned that Commissioner Herring sent out an updated version for review. Commissioners were asked to review the letter and suggest any needed changes. Vice-Chairwomen Murphy stated that some changes were made, and Chairman Milton asked Ms. Curtis to print the corrected sponsorship letter and include them in the regular meeting packets.

How Commissioners Become Commissioners: Vice-Chairwoman Murphy addressed an inquiry from a Human Relations Commission applicant about their application status. Ms. Nazar clarified that the City Council's Appointments Committee selects board and commission members, with no input from the Human Relations Department or Commission. The Human Relations Commission typically receives the highest number of applicants among City Boards and Commissions.

Project Matrix – when these items were moved to Staff (Denim Day, Dining & Dialogue, and The Hate U Give): Chairman Milton inquired about *Denim Day*, *Dining & Dialogue*, and *The Hate U Give* on the Project Matrix. Ms. Nazar explained that these events were shifted to staff initiatives to ease the burden on Commissioners who might not be able to attend every event, and jeopardize their attendance.

The International Folk Festival - Sept. 28- 29, 2024: Chairman Milton stated that information for the International Folk Festival needs to be disbursed as soon as possible to get volunteer participation.

Annual Retreat – October 5, 2024 - Pine Forest Recreation Center: Chairman Milton stated that the annual Commission Retreat is scheduled for October 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Pine Forest Recreation Center. Chairman Milton emphasized that attendance is mandatory for all Commissioners.

Nominating Committee: Chairman Milton referenced an email from Commissioner Narcisse regarding nominations at the next meeting. All commissioners were reminded to arrive no later than 5:45 p.m. to be eligible to vote. Commissioner Narcisse inquired about self-nominations, which Ms. Nazar confirmed would be allowed. After brief discussion, the Executive Committee agreed that self-nominations would not be an issue.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Vice-Chairwoman Murphy and seconded by Secretary Edmonds. With a unanimous vote, Chairman Milton adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Crystal Edmonds  
Crystal Edmonds, Secretary

