

Regular Meeting

Thursday, October 8, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Present: Interim Chair, Eric Olson; Commissioner Hatch; Commissioner Milton; Commissioner Palmer; Commissioner Pappas; Commissioner Pelham; Commissioner Pemberton; Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Six; Commissioner Trainor (via telephone); Commissioner Warren; and Commissioner Webb

Absent: Commissioner Mark Kendrick, Secretary; Commissioner Harris; and Commissioner Jeffrey Wire

Staff Present: Dr. Anthony Wade, Director; Yamile Nazar, Manager; and Janet Beaudry, Office Assistant II.

The meeting was called to order at ­­­­5:36 p.m. by Interim Chair Eric Olson, followed by a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Olson gave the new members of the Commission a general overview of the meeting process.

Motion to approve agenda was made by Commissioner Pemberton, seconded by Commissioner Palmer; vote was unanimous.

Dr. Wade acknowledged that Commissioner Warren may have to leave the meeting early due to a death in her family, and the service is tonight. Condolences were extended to Commissioner Warren.

Motion to approve the September 10, 2020, Zoom meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Palmer, seconded by Commissioner Webb; vote was unanimous.

The new Commissioners each gave a brief bio of themselves and why they wanted to join the Commission.

Committee Reports:

1. ARA Banquet & Human Relations Scholarship: Ms. Nazar stated that the venue at the Ramada is set for next year’s banquet, and they will understand if we have to cancel.
2. Marketing: No report.
3. Crisis Management: No report.

Commissioner Olson then gave a recap on *The Hate U Give* and thanked Commissioners who participated as facilitators. He stated that the response was fantastic. He then asked that the new Commissioners watch the movie if they haven’t already seen it. He said although it was filmed in 2018, it could have been filmed last month considering what is going on in our country now.

Interim Chair Olson then turned over the meeting to Dr. Wade to present the director’s report. He began by welcoming everyone, talking about *The Hate U Give,* and how there definitely will be future community dialogues on the movie. He stated that the model this Commission developed is being used in communities across the state.

Dr. Wade acknowledged the participation of Commissioners Olson and Harris in the state wide Human Relations Virtual meeting on September 29th. He said that in terms of initiating and reporting efforts, this Commission is in the top three in the state along with Winston-Salem and Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

Dr. Wade also acknowledged Commissioners Olson, Pelham, and Pemberton who facilitated the September 29th *The Hate U Give* dialogue. Ms. Nazar then addressed the Commission and said due to the large number of participants, she would not have been able to manage the dialogue without the facilitators assistance. She said that a lot of teenagers had no idea what officers are supposed to do when they stop someone for a traffic violation. The officers attending went over that information in the discussion groups and overall there was a lot of positive feedback.

Dr. Wade listed the organizations that collaborated with the Commission on the dialogues: The Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce, the Fayetteville Police Department, the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Department, the Cumberland County School System, and the Fayetteville-Cumberland Youth Council all worked together to make this dialogue a success. He also praised the PSA that was made with some young people about their thoughts on *The Hate U Give* movie.

Dr. Wade spoke about the City’s Internal and External Committees and the work they are doing. He stated how the committees’ work on diversity, equity, and inclusion is affecting employees and the community. He elaborated with some dates for future collaboration with the City’s External Committee:

* January 19, 2021, the faith community through the Fayetteville Urban Ministries
* January 21, 2021, the business community through the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce and Fayetteville Cumberland Economic Development Corporation and the NCC
* January 26, 2021, young adults along with the City’s Millennial Commission
* January 28, 2021, the general community of residents

Dr. Wade said that the City asked him to reach out to Fayetteville PRIDE and NAACP for possible collaborations as well. He also said that the Commission may be considered for the future.

Interim Chair Olson stated, “Good work begets more work, which is good.” He stated that the Commissioners are not paid, and that each of them represents a part of the community in which they live.

Interim Chair Olson directed the Commissioners to elections for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. A recommendation was made that each Commissioner email Ms. Nazar names of Commissioners whom they would like to nominate. Ms. Nazar would tally the results and report back to the board. There were a total of eight nominations as follows:

Chair: Commissioner Eric Olson and Commissioner Myahtaeyarra Warren

Vice-Chair: Commissioner Franco Webb, Commissioner Donna Pelham, and Commissioner Semone Pemberton

Secretary: Commissioner Franco Webb, Commissioner Donna Pelham, and Commissioner Semone Pemberton

The vote was Commissioner Eric Olson for Chair, Commissioner Franco Webb for Vice-Chair, and Commissioner Semone Pemberton for Secretary.

Chair Olson said the next meeting is the Executive Board meeting and it will be on Thursday, October 22, 2020, via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. The next regular Commission meeting will be on Thursday, November 12, 2020, via Zoom at 5:30 p.m.

The final discussion was the upcoming Commission retreat. Chair Olson said an appropriate location needs to be found where everyone can be social distanced, and that the retreats usually take place from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 or 3:00 p.m. with a box lunch. He suggested the dates November 7 or November 14, both of which are Saturdays, to have the retreat.

After a few concluding remarks, Commissioner Olson called for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Commissioner Webb, seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Vote was unanimous. Meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Approved\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Semone Pemberton, Secretary