

Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 8, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Present: Chairman, Eric Olson; Vice-Chairman, Franco Webb; Secretary, Semone Pemberton; Commissioner Samar Abdelfatah; Commissioner Eileen Hatch; Commissioner Mark Kendrick; Commissioner William “Bill” J. Milton, II; Commissioner Donna Pelham; Commissioner J. Vernon Peterson; Commissioner Tammy Six; and Commissioner Myahtaeyarra Warren

Absent: Commissioner Milette Harris; Commissioner Dwight Palmer; and Commissioner Peter Pappas

Guest: Councilwoman Shakeyla Ingram

Staff Present: Jay Toland, Interim Assistant City Manager; Dr. Anthony Wade, Director; Yamile Nazar, Manager; Stephanie Lorenc, Administrative Specialist; and Janet Beaudry, Office Assistant II.

The meeting was called to order at ­­­­5:43 p.m. by Chairman Eric Olson, followed by a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to approve agenda was made by Commissioner Warren, seconded by Vice-Chairman Webb; vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the March 11, 2021, Zoom meeting minutes was made by Secretary Pemberton, seconded by Vice-Chairman Webb; vote was unanimous.

Chairman Olson asked about the number of scholarship applications we had received. Ms. Lorenc said there were a total of nine applications submitted to the department ready for Commissioner Harris to pick up. She also said that Commissioner Harris had two more applications.

There was a brief discussion on the LGBTQ ordinance and where it is in the process. This was tabled until further notice.

Chairman Olson stated he had sent out three emails; extremism, City SPIRIT, and the slide show from *The Role of Local Human Relations Commissions*. Dr. Wade said that Mr. Deon Lyons would be in Fayetteville on April 30 to meet with the Chairman and any other Commissioners who would like to join in to discuss City SPIRIT.

Commissioner Warren said that she was part of the Department of Justice’s meeting, and asked everyone to be open minded.

Dr. Wade talked about the meeting with Hope Mills Mayor, Jackie Warner and Mayor Pro Tem, Dr. Kenjuana McCray. He said they want to move forward and meet with the Chairman and Dr. Wade as well as any other Commissioners who would like to be a part of the planning meeting. They will meet at the Mission Field Ministries which has the capability to have in-person meetings that are socially distanced. The planning meeting will take place on April 20 at 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Wade went on to say that Major Brenda Vianna will be the new Army representor to the Commission. He also said that the DEI presentation is next week on April 15. He said the nation’s military is the most diverse community and as such represents the country as a whole. The staff that will be in attendance is being identified by General Christopher Donahue who is the 82nd Airborne Commanding General. During the presentation to the 82nd Airborne executives, Ms. Lorenc will be conducting Poll Everywhere to engage group discussion. Dr. Wade said that after this presentation he would be sharing the slide show with the Commission. Dr. Wade also said that according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, there are 16 extremist/supremacist organizations in North Carolina as of February 26, 2021.

There was a brief discussion about the proper Zoom link for the Commission meetings. Ms. Nazar said that the proper link ended in Zz09, and that Ms. Beaudry sends out the correct link two days prior to the meetings.

Vice-Chairman Webb shared with everyone that the Fayetteville Beautiful roadside cleanup will be on Saturday, April 17, 2021.

The next scheduled Commission meeting will be Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., via Zoom.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Kendrick, seconded by Secretary Pemberton. Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

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

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Semone Pemberton, Secretary