



Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 24, 2022, 5:30 p.m.
Kiwanis Recreation Center, 352 Devers Street
In-Person and Zoom Meeting

Present: Chairwoman Semone Pemberton; Vice Chairwoman Milette Harris; Secretary Eileen Hatch; Commissioner Samar Abdelfatah (via Zoom); Commissioner Jessica Black (via Zoom); Commissioner Elmore Lowery; Commissioner William “Bill” Milton, II; Commissioner Eric Olson; Commissioner Dwight Palmer, Jr. (via Zoom); Commissioner Peter Pappas; Commissioner Donna Pelham (via Zoom); Commissioner J. Vernon Peterson; and Commissioner Franco Webb.

Absent: Commissioner Brenda Vianna; Commissioner Eric Washington; and Commissioner Myah Warren.

Staff Present: Yamile Nazar, Director; James Graves, Manager; Stephanie Lorenc, Administrative Specialist; and Janet Beaudry, Office Assistant II.

Guests: Rebekah Boitey, Student and Intern;

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Chairwoman Pemberton.

Chairwoman Pemberton called for a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Webb, seconded by Commissioner Olson. Vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the February 24, 2022, minutes was made by Commissioner Olson, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Vote was unanimous.

Chairwoman Pemberton welcomed and recognized the new Human Relations Manager, James Graves. Ms. Nazar presented a brief bio of Mr. Graves.

Commission Reapplication Process: Chairwoman Pemberton reminded the Commissioners that they need to be aware of their term dates. The City generates an email reminder close to each Commissioner's ending date for them to re-apply. Ms. Nazar added that the County has a similar reapplication process, but she was not sure about how they notify Commissioners. She said she would find out the County's process and will let everyone know.

Protocol / Robert's Rules of Order: Chairwoman Pemberton explained the reason the dialogue was open last meeting during the presentation from Chairman Toussaint Romain, Chairman of the NC Human Relations Commission. She reviewed the Commission's protocol, and asked everyone to review the Robert's Rules of Order Cheat Sheet.

Old Business:

City SPIRIT Update: Ms. Nazar said on Monday, March 28th, Mr. Dion Lyons from the US Department of Justice will present the process of City SPIRIT to City Council. Chairwoman Pemberton will present an overview of the report compiled from City SPIRIT. The Commission is encouraged to attend. She also said that Vice-Chairwoman Harris will be chairing the SPIRIT Council, an ad hoc committee to the Commission. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m., and all media outlets will be there. She reminded the Commissioners that only the Chairwoman and herself are to speak to the media per City Ordinance.

Rapid Response: Commissioner Milton addressed the meeting and asked everyone to review the draft proposal for the Rapid Response Team. He asked for input on the draft proposal at next month's meeting.

"Got Consent": Commissioner Abdelfatah addressed the Commission saying that the date for "Got Consent" at South View High School is April 12. She said that Commissioners are welcome to attend.

Bystander Intervention (Content Discussion): Vice-Chairwoman Harris said that she sent out the lesson plan used by the military for Bystander Intervention. The Commission can tailor the language to fit the local community instead of the military.

New Business:

Denim Day Luncheon: Vice-Chairwoman Harris spoke about International Denim Day, and that she would like the Commission to sponsor a Denim Day Luncheon on the last Wednesday in April, April 27th. She asked that everyone wear jeans on Denim Day to show solidarity. Commissioner Webb made a motion to have a Denim Day Luncheon on April 27th. Second by Commissioner Lowery. Commissioner Pappas asked if there is budget for the event, and Ms. Nazar said yes. Vote was unanimous. Ms. Nazar then said the Botanical Gardens would be the venue for the luncheon. She also asked the Commission to approve the purchasing of denim notebooks with the Human Relations

logo, and the words: Denim Day. Wear denim to combat victim blaming. Inspiring, Solidarity, Powerful. Supporting survivors of sexual violence. Every last Wednesday in April.

Russia / Ukraine Community (Proactive Response): Commissioner Milton said he had called two local churches and asked if there had been any reported incidents relating to the events in Europe. He said they replied no, and asked if Commissioner Milton would be willing to field calls. Ms. Nazar asked Commissioner Milton if he asked about a community event regarding possible discrimination, and he said he would call back this week and ask. He said it would be a Dining & Dialogue event.

Habitat for Humanity Partnership: Ms. Nazar spoke about a one-day partnership with Habitat for Humanity. She said it would be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Chairwoman Pemberton called for a vote. Motion to partner with Habitat for one day was made by Commissioner Webb with a second from Commissioner Lowery. Motion carried with Commissioner Pappas abstaining. The date will be Saturday, May 14th.

Dogwood Festival: Ms. Nazar said the Dogwood Festival will be April 23 and 24. Human Relations will have a booth, and she asked for volunteers to staff the booth in three hour shifts. Mr. Graves reported out from the committee, and said there would be four to five departments including Human Relations, and there would be temporary access cards so the Commissioners and staff can use the restrooms at Festival Park Plaza.

Departmental Report: Ms. Nazar presented an overview of the work she and staff performed throughout the month of February 2022.

The next regular Commission meeting will be on April 28, 2022, at **J.S. Spivey Recreation Center**.

Vice-Chairwoman Harris said that there are three scholarships for this year. She stated that the Commission has \$500.00 in funds, and donations would be accepted to reach \$1,000.00 for another scholarship this year. The deadline for scholarship applications is April 12. The money needs to be in place by July 1, 2022, so that she can distribute the scholarships.

Vice-Chairwoman Harris made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Webb. Vote was unanimous. Chairwoman Pemberton adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Approved _____

Eileen Hatch, Secretary