



Human Relations Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 25, 2022
Kiwanis Recreation Center, 352 Devers St

Present: Chairwoman Semone Pemberton; Secretary Eileen Hatch; Commissioner William “Bill” Milton, II.; Commissioner Samar Abdelfatah; Commissioner Eric Olson; Commissioner Dwight E. Palmer Jr, Rev; Commissioner Peter B. Pappas; Commissioner Donna Pelham, JD, CPA; Commissioner Dr. Elmore Lowery; Commissioner Shirley S. Francis; Commissioner Dakota Wright; Commissioner Eric D. Washington, SFC; Commissioner Franco Webb; Commissioner Abram Flores

Others Present: Councilman Deno Hondros; John Dersainvil-Intern; Dr. Lisa Long-City of Fayetteville Police Department Accreditation & Grant Manager; Leisa Greathouse-Archie Beebe Community Remembrance Project; Demetrius Haddock-Chair, River Jordan Council, Archie Beebe Community Remembrance Project; John Caldwell-Vice-Chair, River Jordan Council, Archie Beebe Community Remembrance Project; Judge Gregory A. Weeks; Andrew Bryant; Bob Freeman; Daron Davis; Ebony B. Caldwell; Eugene (Surname Unknown); Rena McNeil; Tiara (Surname Unknown); Helena Beebe Bailey; Vanessa Caldwell-Moore; Frederick B. Beebe

Absent: Vice-Chairwoman Milette Harris; Commissioner Jessica Black; Commissioner Brenda Vianna; Kelly Olivera

Staff Present: Yamile Nazar, DEI Director; Diona Curtis, Administrative Specialist

Chairwoman Pemberton called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

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

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Milton, II, seconded by Commissioner Palmer Jr, Rev. Vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Milton, II, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Vote was unanimous.

Demetrius Haddock-Archie Beebe Community Remembrance Project: Demetrius Haddock explained the Community Remembrance Project (CRP) is a nationwide program of the Equal Justice Initiative (Bryan Stevenson) devised to memorialize documented victims of racial violence and foster meaningful dialogue about race and justice. The Archie Beebe Community Remembrance Project is specifically designed around the lynching in Cumberland County of Archie Beebe by gunshot. The purpose is to hold dialogue whereby we remember him, expose the atrocity of the racism that killed him, and promote racial healing and harmony. The Archie Beebe Community Remembrance Project consists of Demetrius

Haddock, Chairman of the River Jordan Council and Leisa Greathouse; Judge Greg Weeks, Representative of Organizing Against Racism; and descendants of Archie Beebe. Leisa Greathouse narrated the story of Archie Beebe, and Mr. Haddock explained the organization's goal. Mr. Haddock inquired about a partnership with the Human Relations Commission to co-sponsor community conversations with the City taking the lead in hosting, planning, notifying the public of Community Remembrance Project events; a Letter of Endorsement of this project from the Mayor/City; a fixed corner for the Archie Beebe marker at the Market House; Assistance in acquiring a jar of soil for the Legacy Museum; and assistance in locating the remains/burial for Archie Beebe.

Chairwoman Pemberton stated that the Commission will discuss and vote on the Archie Beebe Community Remembrance Project at the September 22 Commission meeting.

Scholarship/Annual Reception: Chairwoman Pemberton explained donations from Commissioners allowed scholarships to be granted for two students to attend college this year. The Community Foundation provided two as well because of an endowment that they have for every \$25,000 that the Human Relations Commission has, a \$1000 scholarship is rewarded and there is over \$50,000 in the endowment. The Annual Reception is tentatively planned for February 2023, and the date is to be determined. Chairwoman Pemberton stated that the last one dates back to 2019 due to COVID, and asks Ms. Nazar to explain it. Ms. Nazar explained that the Annual Reception is an awards recognition ceremony where the Commission asks the community to nominate those that fit into ten categories. The Annual Reception is a fundraising event that provides the Commission funds for the yearly scholarships. Funds are raised through ticket sales and sponsorships, and so far the Commission has awarded ninety \$1000 scholarships. Ms. Nazar stated the only change to the Annual Reception is making it a luncheon and not a dinner at the Botanical Gardens. Chairwoman Pemberton stated the event requires work, so volunteers will be needed.

Got Consent: Chairwoman Pemberton stated *Got Consent* is a military program that provides sexual harassment training for high school students. Vice-Chairwoman Harris was able to get the language changed so that it would be appropriate for the students. In April 2022, *Got Consent* was done at South View High School, and they would like to host the program again for their incoming Freshmen. Commissioner Abdelfatah stated she will be helping coordinate on behalf of South View and once a meeting is scheduled, they will be able to decide on a date.

Vision Resource Center: Ms. Nazar stated Terry Thomas, Executive Director, received a grant for a sabbatical. The plan is to coordinate a Dining and Dialogue event where there are as many business leaders, elected and others, to attend for an experience of trying to have lunch while being visually impaired. The purpose is to make this an Awareness Campaign in an effort to have people understand that there are great barriers in Fayetteville for persons with disabilities. The date is to be determined.

Introductions: Commissioner Milton stated that he was not familiar with his fellow Commissioners. Chairwoman Pemberton asked that everyone go around and introduce themselves.

The Talk: Ms. Nazar stated that Vice-Chairwoman Harris has agreed to talk to Sonny Kelly. *The Talk* is a monologue on YouTube that is a conversation about race between a father and his son. Chairwoman Pemberton stated that on the Project Matrix this event is on the Proposed list, and is tentatively scheduled for the end of November or the beginning of December. It will be discussed further and voted on at the next Commission meeting.

March on Washington Partnership: Ms. Nazar stated every year the Fayetteville Cumberland County Ministerial Council puts on a march called *The Dream Must Become a Reality, "Voting at Risk: A Nation at Risk"*, from Cumberland County Board of Elections to First Baptist Church on Moore Street. The purpose of the event is to stand in solidarity with the march and events commemorating the 59th Anniversary of the March on Washington in 1963. The Human Relations Commission and Department have been vital partners with the Council since 2020, and they have asked for a partnership again. The Council wants assistance with marketing the event, so Ms. Nazar shared the Human Relations logo. There is a recommendation for Commissioners to participate and speak to the attendees, D.J. Haire will be in attendance on behalf of the Mayor, and County Commissioner representation will also attend. Chairwoman Pemberton stated The March on Washington partnership was not on Project Matrix and inquired about a motion.

Motion to partner with The March on Washington was made by Commissioner Webb, seconded by Commissioner Olson. Vote was unanimous.

Market House Repurposing Update: Ms. Nazar stated there will be a site re-con of the Market House on August 31 with herself and other City employees. The first action is to make the first floor of the Market House accessible for persons who have mobility impairments, and also discuss what will be done with the four corners. The Arts Council is assisting with a casting call for local artists in five different categories; the four corners and the mural being two of those. According to the survey, it revealed the community wants the mural to symbolize the positive contributions of African Americans in Fayetteville throughout history. There will be two consultants, an architect, and Steve Fleming in attendance. Mr. Fleming will be creating the ADA design, and once it is complete, it will have to get approved. Ms. Nazar stated Robert Van Geons has a small committee that will be in sync with the Commission so there will not be a duplication of efforts, and able to provide valuable resources. All updates will be posted on the City's and the Human Relations Commission Facebook pages, as well as Ms. Nazar's LinkedIn page.

Commission Retreat: Chairwoman Pemberton stated that the Commission Retreat is a requirement for all members of the Commission and it is an annual event. There are training courses and opportunities to network with fellow Commissioners and members of the Fair Housing Board. The retreat is scheduled for Saturday, October 8, and the location is to be determined and food will be provided.

International Folk Festival: Chairwoman Pemberton stated that the festival will be on September 24 and 25, and volunteers are needed. A document will be sent out via email for volunteers and time slots to choose from, as well as more information. Ms. Nazar stated that during the Dogwood Festival there were a total of 500 people Saturday and Sunday together, and during PRIDE there were 382 people in five hours with two people. An impact was made, which is why volunteering is important. Ms. Nazar stated the greatest challenge is the set-up and breakdown, and the Fire Department, Police Department, and Airport provide volunteers to assist with that process. Volunteers outside of Commission are welcome, and those hours are added to the Volunteer Time Measurement Tool (VTMT) of the Commissioner who invited them to help. VTMTs demonstrate to City Council and County Commissioners how much money is saved. On the last report processed, the highest amount committed was \$32,000 saved by the City and the County.

Attendance/Participation: Chairwoman Pemberton stated that the Human Relations Commission is an active board and the expectation is to attend the meetings and participation, when conducting community engagement.

Nominating Committee: Chairwoman Pemberton stated that every September there are elections for the Executive Board and the terms are one-year. Ms. Nazar explained the three Commissioners that are selected for the Nominating Committee create a slate for who the next Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary will be. Any persons on the Executive Board are not able to serve on the Nominating Committee. Currently, Chairwoman Pemberton, Vice-Chairwoman Harris, Secretary Hatch, Commissioner Milton, II, and Commissioner Abdelfatah are on the Executive Board.

Commissioner Francis, Commissioner Flores, and Commissioner Lowery volunteered to be a part of the Nominating Committee.

Departmental Report: Ms. Nazar stated there was not much to report for July except the Market House. The Commission has received its first ADA request for an accommodation at an intersection. The intersection is owned by NCDOT, and a request has been sent via email by Ms. Nazar. The Administrative Specialist position was posted and received 101 applications. An applicant was chosen but declined the offer, resulting in the position being posted once again and received 128 applications. After reviewing all of the applications, there are strong candidates for the position. Ms. Nazar stated there were ninety-three phone calls in July.

Announcements: Chairwoman Pemberton stated that she wanted to honor Commissioner Olson for his service to the Commission, and it would be his last meeting. Commissioner Olson shared his experience and thoughts and wished his fellow Commissioners luck. Ms. Nazar gathered all of the Commissioners together for a group picture with Commissioner Olson.

The next regular commission meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2022.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Palmer Jr, Rev, and seconded by Commissioner Olson. With a unanimous vote, Chairwoman Pemberton adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Approved _____

Eileen Hatch, Secretary