



Human Relations Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 22, 2022
Kiwanis Recreation Center, 352 Devers Street

Present: Chairwoman Semone Pemberton; Commissioner Samar Abdelfatah; Commissioner William “Bill” Milton, II; Commissioner Abram Flores, SFC; Commissioner Dwight E. Palmer Jr, Rev; Commissioner Dr. Elmore Lowery; Commissioner Dakota Wright; Commissioner Shirley S. Francis

Others Present: Kelly Olivera, Interim Assistant City Manager; Demetrius Haddock, Chair, River Jordan Council, Archie Beebe Community Remembrance Project; Leisa Greathouse, Archie Beebe Community Remembrance Project; Jim Greathouse, Archie Beebe Community Remembrance Project; Nicholle Young, Archives Technician & African American Studies Researcher; Andrew Bryant Jr.; G. Milton Richardson

Absent: Vice-Chairwoman Milette Harris, Secretary Eileen Hatch; Commissioner Peter B. Pappas; Commissioner Donna K. Pelham, JD, CPA; Commissioner Brenda V. Vianna, Maj; Commissioner Eric D Washington, SFC; Commissioner Franco Webb

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

Chairwoman Pemberton called the meeting to order at 5:34 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 Palmer Jr., seconded by Commissioner Flores. Vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Abdelfatah, seconded by Commissioner Flores. Vote was unanimous.

Chairwoman Pemberton stated there will be a modification to the agenda to move 7.02 before 7.01, to put Archie Beebe Community Remembrance Project first. Introductions were made to welcome guests.

The Talk: Chairwoman Pemberton stated the Executive committee voted to have *The Talk* postponed until the first quarter of next year.

International Folk Festival: Chairwoman Pemberton stated that the commission will not be participating in the International Folk Festival this year. Ms. Nazar stated she hosts the International Folk Festival

with the help of the Fire Department, Police Department, and Airport, but there was not enough time to organize it due to busy schedule.

Vision Resource Center: Chairwoman Pemberton stated that the Vision Resource Center will be a Dining and Dialogue, and the date and location are to be determined. Chairwoman Pemberton stated that Terri Thomas helps to demonstrate the barriers of being visually impaired while dining. Ms. Nazar is in communication with Monica Turner to discuss details while Ms. Thomas is out.

Departmental Report: Ms. Nazar provided an update on the Market House initiative. The consultant is going to produce a scope of work for the Market House, the four corners, and the four crosswalks to make them ADA compliant. There was a site recon in August, and meetings with the Arts Council continue as it relates to the repurposing of the Market House. Ms. Nazar stated that DEI training continues, and there is an internal training coming up for staff. During *The Dream Must Become a Reality Walk*, Commissioner Washington kindly spoke on behalf of the commission. Ms. Nazar stated that she is conducting another *Race: The Power of Illusion* training. There were 248 calls for the month of August, and 137 of them were either Human Relations or DEI-related.

Archie Beebe Community Remembrance Project: Chairwoman Pemberton stated that the Executive committee had a prior discussion about the Archie Beebe Community Remembrance Project and needed to make modifications to some of the requests. There was not an official vote made to give the Commission a chance to vote. Chairwoman Pemberton stated that the marker could not be made permanent and the Commission can co-sponsor the project but cannot guarantee lead on it. Ms. Nazar explained the River Jordan Council could use the Human Relations logo for marketing, and the social media platform for the Commission will be available for marketing. Leisa Greathouse explained when archaeology was done around the Market House, some soil was dug up, and help to locate it is needed. Ms. Nazar stated that she will try to get the soil, but no promises are being made. Chairwoman Pemberton stated that each motion needed to be voted on separately.

Motion for the Human Relations Commission to co-sponsor community conversations with the River Jordan Council was made by Commissioner Milton II, seconded by Commissioner Lowery. Vote was unanimous.

Motion for the Human Relations Commission to request a letter of endorsement from the Mayor/City was made by Commissioner Milton II, seconded by Commissioner Francis. Vote was unanimous.

Motion for a temporary Archie Beebe marker at the Market House was made by Commissioner Lowery, seconded by Commissioner Milton II. Vote was unanimous, Commissioner Webb abstained.

Chairwoman Pemberton stated the marker has to be temporary because if it were to become permanent, other people would inquire about getting permanent markers around the Market House. The time frame for placement will be determined. Ms. Nazar asked Mr. Haddock to submit a letter summarizing what his organization would like the letter of endorsement to say, and she will forward it to the Chief of Staff for review.

Dogwood Festival: Chairwoman Pemberton stated that the Dogwood Festival will be hosted on October 15 and 16. Ms. Nazar stated the Dogwood Festival differs from the International Folk Festival because it is hosted by the Marketing and Communications department. Ms. Nazar will send out a document for volunteers to sign up.

Nominating Committee: Commissioner Lowery stated there was an email sent out to the Commissioners to nominate members for the Executive Committee. Commissioner Lowery, Commissioner Francis, and Commissioner Flores make up the nominating committee. Chairwoman

Pemberton stated that Secretary Hatch decided not to be re-elected, so Commissioner Abdelfatah was recommended. Ms. Nazar explained the voting process to the Commissioners and stated they needed to use the ballot to make their selections. Chairwoman Pemberton and Commissioner Webb pitched why they should be elected for the Chair position. Commissioner Lowery collected the ballots and announced that Chairwoman Pemberton will remain in her position, Vice-Chairwoman Harris will remain in her position, and Samar Abdelfatah will become the new Secretary.

Farewell: Chairwoman Pemberton stated that Commissioner Milton II has come to the end of his term, and will be receiving the first Chairperson Award for the dedication and time he has given to the Human Relations Commission.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2022.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Webb and seconded by Commissioner Palmer Jr. With a unanimous vote, Chairwoman Pemberton adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Approved _____

Samar Abdelfatah, Secretary