



Human Relations Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 25, 2023
Smith Recreation Center, 1520 Slater Ave.

Present: Chairwoman Semone Pemberton; Vice Chairwoman Milette Harris; Commissioner Dakiesha Upchurch; Commissioner Denise Abrams, MSG; Commissioner Dwight Palmer Jr; Commissioner Lynndora Thompson; Commissioner Shirley S. Francis; Commissioner Peter Pappas; Commissioner Toshiba Narcisse; Commissioner Crystal Edmonds

Absent: Commissioner Demetria Murphy; Commissioner Dakota Wright; Commissioner J Vernon Peterson; Commissioner Michael A. Sabb, LTC; Commissioner Abram Flores; Commissioner Claudia Zamora; Commissioner Elmore Lowery

Staff Present: Yamile Nazar, DEI Director; Eric Washington, Human Relations Specialist; Diona Curtis, Administrative Specialist

Others Present: Nikeisha Waring, Chief Diversity Officer, Cumberland County

Chairwoman Pemberton called the meeting to order at 5:37 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 Edmonds with the addition of Statewide Human Relations, seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Palmer with the deletion of Vice-Chairwoman Harris's resignation, seconded by Commissioner Upchurch. Vote was unanimous.

Comprehensive Market House Update: Ms. Nazar stated there has been significant progress towards repurposing the Market House. A budget has been developed for the \$1.5 million allotted for the repurposing.

Ms. Nazar stated currently there is a wait for confirmation to go to the City Council Work Session in September; an Administrative Report will be presented.

Ms. Nazar stated there is a paid intern that has been selected for the Market House, and her task is to form three groups. The Historian group has been formed to create factual stories of the Market House. The next group will be DistiNtly Fayetteville, and they are tasked with taking the stories that the Historians create and putting a creativity aspect on them to be presented. The last group will be made up of American Indian/Indigenous/Native persons who are aware of their arts, history, and culture.

Ms. Nazar stated the new plaque that the City Council approved for the Market House is ready, the next step is waiting for direction from the Executive staff. Ms. Nazar stated that Chairwoman Pemberton; Robert Stone, Construction Management and Capital Projects Director; Brook Redding, Special Projects Manager; and herself will be present at the Work Session.

Upcoming Elective/Nominating Committee: Chairwoman Pemberton stated there will be elections for a new Chairperson and a potential Vice Chairperson in September. The Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary serve a one-year term before re-elections. Chairwoman Pemberton stated the Nominating Committee will create a slate, and it will be voted on at the next commission meeting. Members of the Nominating Committee are: Commissioner Abrams, Commissioner Edmonds, and Commissioner Narcisse. Those who are not on the slate will still have the opportunity to be added to the ballot before it is time to vote.

Commissioner Pappas suggested starting the process for nominations in June for those that are interested in being a part of the Executive Committee. Ms. Nazar stated that staff will check the bylaws to determine what is allowed.

Interim Executive Committee Appointment: Chairwoman Pemberton stated that Commissioner Murphy, Commissioner Peterson, and Commissioner Pappas have been selected for the Interim Executive Committee positions at the moment.

Statewide Meeting: Ms. Nazar stated every year on a quarterly basis, the state of North Carolina hosts a statewide meeting somewhere in the state. This quarter, Fayetteville will be hosting the meeting on September 26th from 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., and it will be held at the Bill Crisp Senior Center. Organizations and agencies from across North Carolina who do Human Relations, Civil Rights, and Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) will be in attendance.

Departmental Report: Ms. Nazar stated the departmental reports for June and July are included in the folders. Congratulations were given to Ms. Curtis on becoming a Notary Public.

The Town of Hope Mills has asked the Human Relations Department to provide DEI training for all staff, and there are about two more trainings left to conclude the session.

The 82nd Airborne Division hosted its Juneteenth Observance on June 15, where staff and members of the Commission were in attendance.

On June 29, Ms. Nazar was invited to be a keynote speaker for the United Way of Cumberland County's Leadership Development Program graduation.

The next regular commission meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2023.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chairwoman Harris, and seconded by Commissioner Pappas. With a unanimous vote, Chairwoman Pemberton adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Approved _____

Semone Pemberton, Chairwoman