



Human Relations Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
Zoom

Present: Chairman William “Bill” Milton; Secretary Crystal Edmonds; Commissioner Milette Herring; Commissioner Shirley Francis; Commissioner Toshiba Narcisse; Commissioner Vernon Peterson; Commissioner Lynndora Thompson; Commissioner Dakeisha Upchurch; Commissioner Dakota Wright; Commissioner Michael A. Sabb, LTC; Commissioner Denise Abrams, MSG

Absent: Vice-Chairwoman Demetria Murphy; Commissioner Peter Pappas

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

Chairman Milton called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Chairman Milton called for a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Chairman Milton, seconded by Commissioner Herring. Vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Chairman Milton, seconded by Commissioner Upchurch. Vote was unanimous.

Opening Remarks: Chairman Milton stated the Community Recognition Awards Luncheon will be held at Cape Fear Botanical Gardens on Thursday, February 15, at 11:00 a.m.

Awards/Scholarship Luncheon: Chairman Milton stated that Commissioner Herring and Secretary Edmonds are Co-Chairwomen of the Awards and Scholarship Committee, and inquired about the status of nominations. Commissioner Herring stated that recipients of the Community Recognition Awards have been notified and have accepted.

Ms. Curtis stated that all advertisements and sponsorships are due, and the ticket sale date has been extended to February 8.

Ms. Nazar stated that she will have a Media Release sent out tomorrow, January 26.

Commissioner Herring stated she will be selecting a team to review scholarship applications, and the Cumberland Community Foundation will also be promoting the scholarships on their website. Invitations to the Scholarship Reception will be sent to the Board of Education, the County Commissioners, City Council, City of Fayetteville Senior Leadership Team, and the Principals and Counselors of the students who will be the recipients of the 2024 Human Relations Scholarship.

Project Matrix: Chairman Milton stated that the Project Matrix has been simplified into three sections; staff initiatives, commission initiatives, and joint initiatives. Commissioner Wright has volunteered to keep the Project Matrix updated.

Chairman Milton stated that all updated version of the Project Matrix must be sent to Ms. Curtis.

Committee Assignment: Chairman Milton stated that there are four standing committees: Executive Committee, Awards and Scholarship Committee, Rapid Response, and Ad Hoc Committees.

Motion to appoint Commissioner Wright to the Executive Committee was made by Commissioner Herring, and seconded by Secretary Edmonds. There was a unanimous vote from the Executive Committee.

The Awards & Scholarship Committee will consist of Co-Chairwomen Commissioner Herring and Secretary Edmonds, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Francis, Commissioner Abrams and Commissioner Upchurch.

The Historian of the Human Relations Commission will be Commissioner Upchurch, and Commissioner Narcisse as the alternate.

Ms. Nazar suggested that the Rapid Response Committee remain open depending on the circumstance, and explained the role of this committee.

Commissioner Herring has volunteered to be the Chairwoman of the By-Laws Committee, Commissioner Peterson and Commissioner Sabb have volunteered to be a part of it as well. Ms. Nazar stated this committee will need to discuss changing the by-laws to accommodate the attendance policy.

Commissioner Narcisse will be the Chairwoman of the Nomination Committee, and Commissioner Francis has also volunteered.

Chairman Milton stated that the Chairperson of each committee will need to report back to the Executive Committee and provide a report following the meeting.

Market House Report: Ms. Nazar stated that the Market House presentation has been accepted, and will be on the agenda for the City Council Work Session being held at 2:00 p.m., on Monday,


February 5, in the Council Chambers. The presentation will have two options that fit the budget: the circle and square that will be presented by Chairman Milton and Commissioner Herring.

Departmental Report: Chairman Milton advised everyone to check their email's and review the report.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2024.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Herring, seconded by Commissioner Sabb, LTC. With a unanimous vote, Chairman Milton adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Approved _____



Crystal Edmonds, Secretary