



Human Relations Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 22, 2024
Festival Park Training Room, 225 Ray Ave

Present: Chairman William "Bill" Milton; Vice-Chairwoman Demetria Murphy; Secretary Crystal Edmonds; Commissioner Lynndora Thompson; Commissioner Dakiesha Upchurch; Commissioner Michael A. Sabb, LTC; Commissioner Denise Abrams, MSG

Absent: Commissioner Milette Herring; Commissioner J. Vernon Peterson; Commissioner Shirley Francis; Commissioner Toshiba Narcisse; Commissioner Dakota Wright; Commissioner Peter Pappas

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

Chairman Milton called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

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

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Upchurch, seconded by Commissioner Abrams. Vote was unanimous.

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

Awards Luncheon: Chairman inquired about the funds raised from the Community Recognition Awards. Ms. Curtis stated that the total raised this year is \$5,730.

Ms. Nazar stated that eight scholarships will be awarded this year; three of those are from the Cumberland Community Foundation. The Human Relations Scholarship Reception location has changed from the Council Chambers to the Bill Crisp Senior Center.

Chairman Milton stated that there was not a Commissioner of the year due to a lack of votes. Secretary Edmonds suggested that all of the Commissioners vote discreetly at a meeting so there is no miscommunication.

Market House Project: Ms. Nazar stated City Council reached a consensus to approve on the square design for the Market House Project at the February 5 Work Session. Ms. Nazar met with Rob Stone, Construction Management and Capital Projects Director as well as Street Engineers, the Fire Department and the SFLA Consultants.

The SFLA Consultants will be creating a presentation showing the accessibility of the Fire Department to navigate with the square design for the Market House. Ms. Nazar stated a meeting with Senior Leadership to discuss the plan following the presentation. The SFLA Consultants will make a "call to artists," which will come to the City for review.

Commissioner Thompson inquired about the art at the Market House. Ms. Nazar stated the Art's Council will be tasked with that portion of the Market House Project.

Attendance at Commission Meetings: Chairman Milton addressed the attendance policy in the Bylaws. In the Bylaws, it states that all City of Fayetteville Board and Commissions must attend at least 75% of all meetings. If an appointee fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings, then they shall be automatically removed, and may not be appointed to any board or commission within two years of his or her removal date.

Bylaws Committee: Chairman Milton stated a Bylaws Committee needs to be formed to review the Attendance Policy to accommodate special circumstances.

Ms. Nazar stated the recommendation from City Management is for the Human Relations Commission to vote and create a letter for the City Council's Policy Committee to change the policy to accommodate things such as military members who have special assignments and maternity/paternity leave.

Motion to write a recommendation letter to the City Council Policy Committee for the Human Relations Commission's attendance policy was made by Commissioner Abrams, seconded by Commissioner Upchurch. Vote was unanimous.

Vice-Chairwoman Murphy inquired about an update on the Student Human Relations Commission. Ms. Nazar stated the updates for the Project Matrix will be sent out via email once Commissioner Wright has finished with them.

Project Matrix: Chairman Milton stated that the format of the Project Matrix has been changed.

Secretary Edmonds explained the new format and stated that Commissioner Wright is updating the Matrix.

Ms. Nazar stated that the Project Matrix will continue to be updated and will remain current; all completed initiatives have been archived.

Secretary Edmonds stated that the deadline for the scholarships to be submitted is March 28, 2024.

Roundtable: Ms. Curtis stated that the Denim Day website has been updated and a reservation link will be sent via email.

Departmental Report: Ms. Nazar stated the Departmental Report is in the folders for review.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 28, 2024.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Upchurch. With a unanimous vote, Chairman Milton adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Approved _____

Crystal Edmonds
Crystal Edmonds, Secretary