



**DURHAM HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MARCH 2016 MEETING**

**Neighborhood Improvement Services Department Conference Room
Golden Belt Center, Building 2, Floor 3
807 East Main Street, Durham, NC 27701
Date: Tuesday, March 1, 2016
Time: 7:00 PM**

MEETING MINUTES

*Members of Commission: Commissioners Phil Seib, Chair, Norris Wicker, Vice Chair, Ricky Hart, Gerri Robinson, Richard Ford, Jacob Kliatchko, Ashley Taylor, Girija Mahajan, Susan Austin, Ian Kipp, Risa Foster, Sejal Zota, Diane Standaert, Franklin Hanes, Yolanda Keith
Council Persons Don Moffitt, City Council Liaison, Jillian Johnson, Alternate City Council Liaison*

Call To Order

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll Call

Juanita English, Administrative Assistant, called the roll for the meeting.

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Phil Seib, Ricky Hart, Ashley Taylor, Girija Mahajan, Susan Austin, Ian Kipp, Risa Foster, Sejal Zota, Diane Standaert, Franklin Hanes, Yolanda Keith

Commissioners Absent - Excused: Commissioners Norris Wicker, Gerri Robinson, Richard Ford, Jacob Kliatchko

City Council Liaison Present: Council Person Don Moffitt

City Department Staff Present: Delilah Donaldson, Senior Human Relations Manager, Juanita English, Administrative Assistant

Orders of the Day

1. Ceremonial Items

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, welcomed Commissioner Yolanda Keith, new Commission member, to the Commission, and Commissioner Yolanda Keith introduced herself to the Commission.

2. Public Comments

None

3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Risa Foster informed the Commission that it was her understanding that Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, asked the members of the Bull City Connector Route Change Impact Committee to review the information presented at the DHRC February 2016 meeting to see if there were any actions that the Commission may want to make about the issue, not to specifically make any recommendations to the Commission about the issue at the next meeting. It was agreed that the February Meeting Minutes would be revised to reflect the change in wording about the request for the Bull City Connector Route Change Impact Committee.

Commissioner Risa Foster made a motion to approve the January 2016 Meeting Minutes of the DHRC Meeting held on Tuesday, January 5, 2016, and the February 2016 Meeting Minutes of the DHRC Meeting held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, with the revision to the minutes; Commissioner Diane Standaert seconded the motion; the motion was approved with ten (10) votes “For” the motion, zero (0) votes “Against” the motion, and one (1) vote “Abstained” the motion made by Commissioner Ian Kipp since he was not present at the February 2016 meeting.

4. Presentations

None

5. Executive Committee Report

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, held an Executive Committee Meeting for all Committee Chairs at 6:30 PM.

6. Committee & Special Project Reports

Standing Committees:

Community Outreach Committee:

Commissioner Norris Wicker, Committee Chair, was not present at the meeting, therefore, there was no report given.

Human Relations Hearing Committee for Housing Appeals:

Commissioner Gerri Robinson, Committee Chair, was not present at the meeting, therefore, there was no report given.

Policies & Procedures Committee:

Commissioner Susan Austin, Committee Chair, informed the Commission that there was nothing to report at this time.

Special Events Committee:

Commissioner Ashley Taylor, Committee Chair, provided a report to the Commission with an update on the Human Relations Commission Awards Ceremony to be held on Thursday evening, April 28, 2016, at 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM, at Holton Career & Resource Center with keynote speaker, Attorney Douglas Jones, and that he would also make a presentation on Thursday afternoon, April 28, 2016, at 3:00 PM until 4:30 PM, at City Council Chambers in Durham City Hall.

Commissioner Ashley Taylor, Committee Chair, also provided a report on the nomination process for the Human Relations Commission awards that will be presented at the Human Relations Commission Awards Ceremony, reporting that nominations will be accepted from March 7, 2016 through March 31, 2016, and during the first weeks of April, the committee would review the nominations and make the selections for the awards.

Commissioner Yolanda Keith, new Commission member, joined the Special Events Committee.

Website/Marketing Committee:

Commissioner Richard Ford, Committee Chair, was not present at the meeting, so he sent a committee report to Commissioner Phil Seib, Commissioner Chair, which the Chair read to the Commission members at the meeting, reporting that the DHRC Facebook page had 12 new posts during February and 32 views, and the posts had a total of 1771 views; the ICE story from the N&O had 649 views; the announcement of the Women's Forum had 473 views. He reminded everyone that the DHRC meeting minutes are now on the City Website, and that he will put a link to the DHRC meeting minutes on the DHRC Facebook page. He also reminded everyone that it would be great to have some photos from various events to post.

Ad hoc Committees:

Bull City Connector Route Change Impact Committee:

Commissioner Diane Standaert, Committee Chair, reported to the Commission that the committee looked at the information that was presented at the February DHRC meeting by GoTriangle and Spirit House, Inc., and the committee came up with a list of questions to ask GoTriangle, and the committee talked about follow-up steps. She also reported that Commissioner Richard Ford had sent some questions to the committee for them to look at.

The Commission discussed the Bull City Connector route change impact issue.

Commissioner Diane Standaert made a motion for the committee to review the information and materials provided in the presentations to the Commission, and see if the Commission should act on the information reviewed; Commissioner Susan Austin seconded the motion; the motion was approved with ten (10) votes "For" the motion, zero (0) votes "Against" the motion, and one (1) vote "Abstained" the motion, made by Commissioner Ricky Hart.

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, informed the committee that after further review of the information and materials, the committee could recommend to the Commission that more presentations be made to the Commission, if needed on the issue.

Commissioner Diane Standaert, Committee Chair, informed the Commission that the committee would do some fact finding and come back to the Commission with recommendations on the issue.

Muslim Community Public Forum Committee:

Commissioner Sejal Zota, Committee Chair, gave a report to the Commission on the Muslim Community Public Forum that was held on Monday, February 29, 2016. She commented that she thought the forum was good, and she thanked everyone involved for their hard work and good outreach. She reported that five (5) Commission members attended the forum, and three (3) City Council members attended the forum, and that there was diversity with the attendees of the forum. She informed the Commission that the screening of the WRAL documentary entitled "Faith, Fear and Freedom" by the award-winning journalist, David Crabtree, was very informative, and that as moderator of the panel discussion, he engaged the attendees in the discussion. She also reported that three (3) organizations sponsored the event along with the Human Relations Commission, the Durham Congregations in Action, DurhamCares, and Rotary Club of Durham.

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, thanked Commissioner Sejal Zota, Committee Chair, for her hard work in organizing the Muslim Community Public Forum event.

7. Commissioner Communications and Announcements

None

8. Human Relations Manager's Report

Delilah Donaldson, Senior Human Relations Manager, provided the Commission with the Human Relations Manager's Report for February 2016 and the HUD Fair Housing Case Report for February 2016.

8.01 Human Relations Communications/Announcements

Delilah Donaldson, Senior Human Relations Manager, provided the Commission with the Human Relations Division Calendar for March 2016.

Delilah Donaldson, Senior Human Relations Manager, informed the Commission that March is "Women's History Month." She invited everyone to the 14th Annual Women's Forum celebrating "Women's History Month" to be held at City Council Chambers in Durham City Hall on Thursday, March 24, 2016, at 6:00 PM until 7:30 PM. She asked everyone to invite their family, friends, and associates, especially young people that could benefit from hearing the inspirational success stories of the panelists.

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, asked that the Women's Forum flyer be emailed to the Commission members so that they could email it to their contacts.

Note: On Monday, March 7, 2016, Juanita English, Administrative Assistant, emailed the Women's Forum flyer to the Commission members; copy of email and flyer attached, (see Attachment 1 & 2).

Delilah Donaldson, Senior Human Relations Manager, informed the Commission that April is "Fair Housing Month." She informed the Commission that there would be an orientation presentation in April, in which Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager, and Emanuel McGirt, Senior Assistant City Attorney, would speak to the Commission.

9. Old Business

Update on Durham Detained Youth in ICE Custody:

Commissioner Girija Mahajan gave an update report to the Commission on the Durham detained youth in ICE custody. She reported that Wildin David Guillen Acosta was still in custody in a Georgia detention facility. She reported that after the Commission passed the resolution on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, against ICE raids on Durham youth, the Durham Public School Board passed a similar resolution on Thursday, February 11, 2016, opposing ICE actions and deportation of Durham students. She reported that on Thursday, February 23, 2016, the faculty of Riverside High School walked to the U.S. Post Office and mailed homework to Wildin. She informed the Commission that another student was picked up by ICE while waiting for the school bus, and she commented that there has been a drop in school attendance for fear of ICE raids in the schools.

Commissioner Diane Standaert asked if the resolution was going to be sent to the state congressmen. Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, informed the Commission that he had sent the DHRC resolution to Congressman Price.

City of Durham Human Relations Survey:

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, informed the Commission that he has prepared the City of Durham Human Relations Survey with six (6) questions on the survey. He asked the Commission members to send him ten (10) organizations each by Thursday, March 10, 2016, that they want to take the survey, and he will email the organizations by Saturday, March 12, 2016, asking them to participate in the survey, along with the survey link.

The Commission members asked questions about the Human Relations Survey that Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair had created, and asked about reviewing the survey before it is sent to the organizations that the Commission members provide to the Chair. Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, indicated that he did not want to delay the survey from going out to the organizations any longer.

Note: After the meeting, Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, sent an email to the Commission on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, indicating that he realized that the Commission members had a right to give feedback and generate questions for the survey, so he informed the Commission that he had decided to wait until April to release the survey, so that the Commission members could review the survey, and he attached the survey for review to his email; copy of email and survey attached, (see attachment 3 & 4).

Development of Priority Subjects for 2016:

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, asked the Commission members to email him their most important human relations issues, and the one (1) most important human relations issue that the Commission decides on, along with two (2) most important human relations issues from the survey responses, would be the three (3) human relations issues that the Commission will work on.

The Commission members inquired as to when the Commission would be working on the three (3) issues, since fiscal year 2016 is almost over, and the Commission does not conduct any business at the May meeting except for election of officers, and the Commission does not meet at the beginning of fiscal year 2017 for the month of July due to vacation and the month of August due to "National Night Out," and if a new Commission chair is elected, the new chair may want to work on different issues.

The Commission discussed the possibility of conducting other business in May in addition to election of officers. Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, asked Commissioner Susan Austin, Committee Chair of Policies & Procedures Committee, to review the DHRC Rules of Procedure & Powers & Duties on the issue of not conducting any business at the May meeting except for election of officers, and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

The Commission discussed the possibility of meeting in July and August.

Commissioner Risa Foster made a motion for the Commission to meet in the months of July and August; Commissioner Diane Standaert seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved.

10. New Business

None

11. Durham Human Relations Commission (DHRC) Long-Range Calendar

The DHRC April 2016 monthly Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 6:30 PM.

The DHRC April 2016 monthly Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:31 PM.