

PROPOSED MINUTES
BY GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL
June 5, 2013

The Greenville Human Relations Council (GHRC) met Wednesday, June 5, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the third floor conference room (Room 337) of City Hall. Members present denoted by *, members absent denoted by x.

Enji Abdo-*	Marvin Arrington-*	Rodney Coles-*
Loyd Horton-x	Robert Hudak -*	Byung Lee-*
Shaterica Lee-x	Prudencio Martinez-Mengel-x	Helen Pase-x
Franchine Pena-*	Heena Shah-x	Maurice Whitehurst-*
Bonnie Snyder-*		

Others: Ashish Khanchandani, Youth Council Chairperson
Sheneka Revis, Southern Christian Leadership Conference
Terry Parrish

Rose Glover, Mayor Pro-Tem-x Cassandra Daniels, Staff Liaison-*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Martha Brown announced she is working with UNC –TV to identify North Carolinas who attended the 1963 March in Washington where Dr. King made his famous “I Have a Dream” speech to document their story. We have identified approximately 20 people; and Tyron Palace in New Bern (August 28th) is planning an event to honor and recognize those individuals.

Bonnie Snyder stated that on June 14, 2013 at 7:30 pm, the Buddhist Group will host a public talk at the Unitarian Universalist Church on the benefits of mediation. The talk will be led by Kathy Wesley.

Enji Abdo announced that July 10, 2013 is the beginning of Ramadan and will last for 30 days. She stated more information will be provided later.

Byung Lee announced that Korean Association and Peace Presbyterian Church will honor Korean War Veterans in an Appreciation Day on Sunday, June 23 at 11:00 am. The ceremony will consist of the worship service, various presentations and a Korean meal. Members of the Council are invited and if you know of anyone that served in the Korean War we would like to provide them an invitation.

Bob Hudak announced the Ulster Project is an initiative where host families sponsor a group of teenagers for the month of June. Greenville is the only city in North Carolina that continues this effort to build bridges of tolerance and understanding. On Friday, June 28th a dinner will take place at First Presbyterian Church.

Rodney Coles announced the “Feed My Sheep Children Meal Program” will take place from June 17 – August 9, 2013. It is hosted by the Little Willie Center. The program is open to all the children.

In addition, Rodney Coles spoke about the “Community Chaplin Program”, a new program that will engage the community by creating ways for staff of the Pitt County Sheriff and Greenville Police Departments to become more connected in the community.

Sheneka Revis, a representative of Southern Christian Leadership Conference, addressed the Council about SCLC’s Teen Summit scheduled for August 1 – 2, 2013 at the Greenville Convention Center. The two-day symposium will provide an innovative and inspiring environment that will address topics that impact the lives of youth from ages 12-19 years of age. This is the first year for the summit and the committee is preparing to make it an annual event.

WELCOME

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Franchine Pena, seconded by Bonnie Snyder, to approve the May 2013 minutes with the following corrections: page 3, under photo contest, second sentence should read: Prudencio, Heena and I and on page 4, the last paragraph and last sentence under photo contest should read: “We must start immediately, since school will be ending soon”. Motion carried unanimously.

INCIDENT REPORT

Cassandra Daniels stated the incident report is not available. However, she shared a sensitive situation with the Council, involving a tenant that seemingly has been trying to get help for approximately 6-months or longer. The tenant, Clinton Smith, visited my office several months ago regarding situations with the property manager at Captain Quarters. Today, the tenant specifically spoke about needing his medication, having to sit outside all day waiting for the property manager, and committing suicide.

OLD BUSINESS

Photo Contest: Cassandra Daniels requested the item be tabled until the August meeting when members of the subcommittee will be in attendance. Motion was made by Franchine Pena, seconded by Bob Hudak, to table discussion of the Photo Contest until the August meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month

Ashish Khanchandani, Chair of the Youth Council, presented the 1Mile/5K Run/Walk to members of the Human Relations Council. He stated that obesity has been a part of the Youth Council’s

agenda for some time and the Council wanted to do something to raise awareness about the obesity epidemic among youth. In addition to raising awareness, we would like to make this an opportunity to raise monetary resources for both Councils.

Recently, we met with Kip Sloan and Tim Garriss who are the experts with organizing races and they will be assisting us. They will certify the route, assign numbers to runners, keep time and provide chips for the participants. The date for the event is Sunday, September 22, 2013 at 1:30 pm.

Cassandra Daniels stated we were looking at Saturday, September 29th. However, Kip Sloan and Tim Garriss have two races scheduled out of town on that Saturday. In addition, the event had to be scheduled around ECU's football schedule.

Bob Hudak stated he thinks that for some, a Sunday maybe a better opportunity, especially in the fall. In terms of sponsors and raising money, you will have to have some publicity. Can The Daily Reflector sponsor this event? **Cassandra Daniels** stated the only way the reflector would sponsor is through free advertising; and that would be a great sponsorship, because newspaper advertising is very expensive. Additional expenses include cost of t-shirts, bags and the cost of the chips which will be provided to participants.

Bob Hudak stated because it's the Greenville Youth Council, other youth organizations may provide funding for the event. There are a few businesses that I know through the Boys and Girls Club that might be inclined because it is the Greenville Youth Council raising awareness about the epidemic of obesity among youth. In addition, I think a lot of this has to do with health concerns, as well as the fact that our young people in the community are raising concerns for the wellness of our residents.

Byung Lee asked how we would invite individuals that are not active, especially young people who do not exercise on a regular basis. We are hopeful that more people would participate that do not exercise. Sunday is a good day because on Saturday mornings, young people don't like to get up that early. My concern is that not only runners participate, we hope young people will participate that is not exercising....we have to figure that out how to get them involved. I am willing to sponsor and I will speak with some friends of mine. In order to do it, I would like to bring in some more young people. How will inactive young people be invited? **Ashish Khanchandani** stated marketing strategies will include flyers, PSA's, an article in The Daily Reflector, etc.

Enji Abdo stated she agrees with Byung Lee, because the quality of life for obese young people is not as great. There are some businesses that may help, such as Burton Family Dentistry is putting in healthy vending machines and there is also Dr. Ross' office.

Rodney Coles stated he is a member of Pitt Partners for Health Steering Committee and we meet on the second Tuesday of each month. Approximately 50-60 people attend and a flyer will help us get the information out to the community. If information is forwarded to Churches Outreach Network, it can be forwarded to their database. In addition, there is a concern with the event taking place on a Sunday, with families eating dinner at 3pm and parents having to return back to work on Monday. **Ashish Khanchandani** stated registration, the walk and/or run should last approximately one hour each.

Bonnie Snyder asked if information vendors would be available to provide material to those attending. **Ashish Khanchandani** stated he thought that would be good; and vendors could be stationed around the Town Commons.

Bob Hudak stated he is very sensitive about the many ways people are discriminated against in communities because they are obese. Anything this Council can do to support the Youth Council to encourage people...to have a walk for those who are not physically fit for a run or race which may put their life at risk; a fun walk to raise awareness that will make it very positive and inclusive

Enji Abdo stated she believes the best way to get young people involved is through facebook. She is a member of the Greenville Running Group and we constantly get notifications and information about different 5Kruns in the community.

Byung Lee stated someone has to be working with public relations and several different people will have to be assigned for the walk/run. Someone has to contact public schools, different church organizations, families to bring in youth members and their children. How do we expect to get people involved?

Council members were interested in how proceeds will be used. **Ashish Khanchandani** and **Cassandra Daniels** stated proceeds from the event will be used to continue our efforts for building awareness about the epidemic of childhood obesity and help support other community service projects that both Councils sponsors.

Inclusive Community Breakfast

Cassandra Daniels stated the breakfast is scheduled at the Hilton on Thursday, September 26 at 7:30 am. Members of the subcommittee are Byung Lee, Franchine Pena, Bonnie Snyder, Enji Abdo, Heena Shah and Martha Brown.

Martha Brown, former member of the Council, talked about the importance of bridging our community through the community's cultural, religion and all the riches that Greenville has to offer.

Bob Hudak stated 50-years ago he was a teenager in New Jersey and as a white man, I wonder if any while folks in Greenville/Pitt County was a part of that march. Who would have thought 50-years ago, we are natives of Greenville and our community would consist of people from other parts of the country. Who would have thought that 50-years ago that there would be signs as you enter into Greenville declaring the City's efforts to build an inclusive community...we have a dream that was borne through the life and death and the energy and spirit released by Dr. King; and that 50-years later we still have a dream regarding inclusivity.

Martha Brown stated the Council has to make sure we don't leave anything/one out. With Dr. King's voice and a portion of the "I Have A Dream Speech" with pictures of what's going on in different religious groups.

Terry Parrish asked if we are talking about including the pagans and nontraditional spiritualities. Martha Brown and others of the Council responded yes....we will have to be very intentional so as not to leave anyone/thing out.

Cassandra Daniels stated she would send out a meeting invite for all subcommittee members to discuss the presentation as well as the theme.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Enji Abdo, seconded by Rodney Coles, to adjourn until the first Wednesday night in August. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Daniels

Cassandra Daniels
Human Relations Officer