

DRAFT MINUTES
BY GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL
June 24, 2021

The Greenville Human Relations Council (GHRC) met Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 6:00 PM via Zoom. Members absent denoted by x.

Samar Badwan-*	Olive Barrett-*	Montez Bishop-*	Jim Cox-x
Rod Debs-*	Todd Fraley-*	Logan Harrison-x	Shane Knight-*
Francisco Limon-*	Antonio Milton-*	Lomax Mizzelle-*	Franchine Peña-*
LaQuon Rogers-*	Heena Shah-*	Deborah Sheppard-x	Kevin Cruz-Torres-*
Trish Vu-x			

Rose Glover, Council Member-x Cassandra Daniels, Staff Liaison-*

Samar Badwan, Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed the members to the Thursday, June 24th meeting. Due to the pandemic, a lot of things have changed. The Council has sponsored less community dialogues, events, and seminars.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – A motion was made by **Mr. Francisco Limon**, seconded by **Mr. Olive Barrett**, to approve the March and April minutes with necessary corrections, if there be any. The Council voted via roll call and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Inclusive Community Event

Staff provided a brief update regarding the 2021 Inclusive Community event. Prior to COVID-19, the Inclusive Community Breakfast was held the fourth Thursday in September yearly. Due to the pandemic, the subcommittee has discussed another of options, and is trying to narrow down the best alternative for the event. Currently, there are discussions regarding an outdoor event, scheduled for Saturday, September 11th or September 18th (rain date). There was some apprehension for a successful event while COVID cases continue to increase and people not wanting to follow CDC or the Governor's guidelines. Members of the Council suggested a video would be a better option due to the pandemic.

B. Annual Award Ceremony

The Human Relations Council will observe their 50th Anniversary, Saturday, February 26, 2022. According to previous meetings of the subcommittee, the Council would like for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary to include different kinds of entertainment, as well as, different selections of food for the reception, and the program booklet. Entertainment, food and the program booklet should represent the diversity of the Greenville community. Issues around COVID-19 continues to be a concern for the Council. A decision regarding the venue for the 50th Anniversary depends on if things are better with the pandemic. The Council voted via roll call and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Task Forces' Update – Recommendations

Vice-Chair Franchine Pena stated task force meetings were held July 21 -24 to discuss and finalize their recommendations. After no more deliberation, task force members voted via roll call and the recommendations were unanimously approved by each task force. Chair Samar Badwan, stated that Human Relations Council had received the recommendations via email. At the July meeting, Council members will be given an opportunity to discuss, provide input/comments or ask questions regarding the work of the task forces.

NEW BUSINESS

Open Meeting Agenda

Members spoke about the different events that are held to celebrate the cultural diversity in the Greenville community.

Ms. Lomax Mizzell informed the Council of historical events in the month of June:

- Loving Day”, which is an annual celebration held on June 12th, the anniversary of the 1967 United States Supreme Court decision (Loving v. Virginia) that struck down all anti-miscegenation (interracial marriages) laws. Illegal to discriminate against interracial marriages.
- Juneteenth, a federal holiday commemorating the emancipation of African-American slaves.
- Gay Pride Month (LGBTQIA + Pride Month) celebrated in June in honor of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. In **June** Americans come together to celebrate **LGBTQIA+ Pride Month** to raise awareness about the current state of human rights and how their respective organizations are working to protect and advocate for those rights.

Mr. Todd Fraley stated there are cities that incorporate various cultural events into their city's logo and/or creating a place on the webpage to help displaying the city's diversity. There's a number of things that can be considered and agreed upon that will help the City display its diverse community. For example, the City of Greensboro incorporate the Gay-Pride Flag in their logo and some cities uses the different color light bulbs in June to celebrate Gay-Pride. *Mr. Fraley* further spoke about:

- Juneteenth Celebration
- In-the-black pop-up (encouraging minority businesses to come together)
- The African American Cultural Trail

Vice-Chair Franchine Pena stated those are excellent ideas, especially the logo that maybe easier. As you drive through Farmville, there are Gay-Pride flag flying throughout the community. When driving through Greenville, you don't see that or anything that represent the cultural diversity of our City. *Rev. Rod Debs* asked about next steps to have a subcommittee to look into partnering with other organizations. Believe the Council is more interested in developing a plan to incorporate other cultural events/activities with the City's logo and a partnership with the City's Juneteenth celebrations. *Mr. Montez Bishop* stated the Council has to network more; make connections, support and show up! Doesn't make sense to reinvent the wheel, when there are so

many amazing things going on in the Greenville community. The Council has to connect with the people out there. Also, what happened with the suggestion of making the City a safe zone with flags displaying the City's diversity as you enter the city? **Ms. Cassandra Daniels**, staff liaison, stated- there were several meetings between the City Manager and the individual from ECU. There may have been some funding issues and the responsibility with having the banners/flags hung. **Mr. Antonio Milton** stated there are no difficulties when it comes to football season or Christmas holidays when lights and decorations are hung. **Mr. Montez Bishop** stated you can find every excuse not to hang. **Mr. Todd Fraley**, stated changing the light bulbs or incorporating an idea into the City's logo to celebrate Gay-Pride Month, does not require anything being hung.

Dr. LaQuon Rogers stated the Council represents the populace of Greenville. Let's start by creating a list of organizations and the contact information that support inclusivity in different areas. Members of the Council can volunteer to attend those meetings and convey the information to the Council. Think this will be critical in moving forward. This is how the Council can start impacting and inspiring change. Not everyone is going to be interested in the same things or cause. The focus must be on business and community organizations. The following volunteered to do research on how other cities celebrate diversity and to create a listing of organizations that the Council can partner with to help showcase the city's diversity: Lomax Mizzell, Todd Fraley, Antonio Milton, LaQuon Rogers and Francisco Limon.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Olive Barrett, seconded by Mr. Antonio Milton, to adjourn. The Council voted via roll call and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Daniels

Cassandra Daniels
Human Relations Officer