

**ADOPTED MINUTES BY THE
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

A. 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 a number of things can be considered to help display the City's diverse community. The City of Greensboro changed their logo to reflect what's going on in the month. For example, the gay-pride flag is incorporated in the Greensboro's logo in the month of June. **Vice-Chair Franchine Pena** responded and stated that's an excellent idea, especially the logo that maybe easier. As you go through Farmville, there are gay-pride flags everywhere. However, in Greenville you don't see that. **Rev. Rod Debs** asked what steps are necessary to establish a group that would look into partnering with other organizations. Ms. Cassandra Daniels, staff liaison, stated the process for establishing subcommittee is fairly simple. The Council has to define the purpose and need for such a subcommittee.

- h is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of African-American slaves. It is also often observed for celebrating African-American

A motion was made by Mr. Antonio Milton, seconded by Mr. Rod Debs, to approve the recommendations presented by each task force.

in the report is almost complete. As discussed in the Council's August 26th meeting, the report will include the mission, the story and the recommendations of each task force. The names and titles of the members for each task force will be listed. The Leadership Team is scheduled to meet with the Mayor and City Manager on Wednesday, November 10th at 4:30 pm. **Rev. Rod Debs**, asked if this meeting was for the full Council? **Staff** informed the Council the meeting is for the Chair of the Connecting People: Planting Seeds to Dismantle Racism, and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Human Relations Council.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Human Relations Council Meeting – November 18, 2021

A motion was made by Heena Shah, second by Shane Knight, to change the November 18th meeting to November 16th at 6:00 pm. The Council voted via roll call and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Open Meeting Agenda: No comments.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Francisco Limon, seconded by Vice-Chair Franchine Pena, to adjourn. The Council voted via roll call and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Daniels

Cassandra Daniels
Human Relations Officer

Document #: 1157061