



**DURHAM HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
APRIL 2016 MEETING
Neighborhood Improvement Services Department Conference Room
Golden Belt Center, Building 2, Floor 3
807 East Main Street, Durham, NC 27701
Date: Tuesday, April 5, 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, Ricardo Correa
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 7:10 PM, since there were not yet enough members present at 7:00 PM for a quorum.

Roll Call

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

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Phil Seib, Norris Wicker, Ricky Hart, Richard Ford, Susan Austin, Ian Kipp, Risa Foster, Diane Standaert, Franklin Hanes, Yolanda Keith, Ricardo Correa

Commissioners Absent - Excused: Commissioners Gerri Robinson, Jacob Kliatchko, Ashley Taylor, Girija Mahajan, Sejal Zota

City Council Liaison Present: No

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

Orders of the Day

1. Ceremonial Items

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, welcomed Commissioner Ricardo Correa, new Commission member, to the Commission, and Commissioner Ricardo Correa, introduced himself to the Commission.

2. Public Comments

Serena Sebring, Campaign Organizer of Southerners On New Ground (SONG), spoke to the Commission against HB2. She asked the Commission to consider making a resolution against HB2.

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, thanked Serena Sebring for speaking to the Commission, and asked her to email literature about the HB2 issue to him.

3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Susan Austin made a motion to approve the March 2016 Meeting Minutes of the DHRC meeting held on Tuesday, March 1, 2016; Commissioner Norris Wicker seconded the motion; the motion was approved with nine (9) votes "For" the motion, zero (0) votes "Against" the motion, and one (1) vote "Abstained" the motion, made by Commissioner Richard Ford since he was not present at the March 2016 meeting.

4. Presentations

DHRC City Orientation:

Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager, gave a City orientation presentation about the role of the Deputy City Manager in relations to the Neighborhood Improvement Services Department.

Emanuel McGirt, Senior Assistant City Attorney, gave a City orientation presentation about the role of the Senior Assistant City Attorney, legal advisor to the DHRC and the Neighborhood Improvement Services Department.

Fair Housing Training:

Larry Revelle, Human Relations Specialist, and Lenin Martinez-Gallo, Bilingual Human Relations Specialist, gave a Fair Housing training presentation. They provided the Commission members with a copy of the PowerPoint presentation they used during their training; copy of the presentation attached, (see Attachment 1).

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, reported that he wanted to have a conference call with committee members, and that he would get that conference call setup, so that he could discuss community outreach with the committee members.

Human Relations Hearing Committee for Housing Appeals:

Commissioner Gerri Robinson, Committee Chair, was not present at the meeting to give a report.

Policies & Procedures Committee:

Commissioner Susan Austin, Committee Chair, reported to the Commission that Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, had asked the committee to look at the policies in the DHRC Rules of Procedure & Powers and Duties concerning conducting business in addition to election of officers at the May meeting, and procedure for passing a resolution. She reported that the committee looked at both policies, and had two proposed amendments to the two policies in the DHRC Rules of Procedure & Powers and Duties. She provided Commission members with a document about the two proposed amendments to the DHRC Rules of Procedure & Powers and Duties; copy of document attached, (see Attachment 2).

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, asked Commission members to review the document about the two proposed amendments to the DHRC Rules of Procedure & Powers and Duties, and be prepared to discuss them at the next meeting.

Special Events Committee:

Commissioner Ashley Taylor, Committee Chair, was not present at the meeting to give a report.

Commissioner Risa Foster, Committee Member, reported that the Human Relations Awards nomination form was now online.

Website/Marketing Committee:

Commissioner Richard Ford, Committee Chair, reported that on the DHRC Facebook page there were 3 new posts, 559 viewers, and a link to the DHRC meeting agendas and minutes. He asked that the Commission members continue to supply him with photos for the DHRC Facebook page.

Ad hoc Committees:

Bull City Connector Route Change Impact Committee:

Commissioner Diane Standaert, Committee Chair, reported that the committee had questions for GoTriangle that were forwarded to John Tallmadge of GoTriangle, and once the committee receives the responses, they would review the responses, and bring recommendations to the Commission, and if needed, they would ask GoTriangle and Spirit House to present again to the Commission.

7. Commissioner Communications and Announcements

None

8. Human Relations Manager's Report

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

8.01 Human Relations Communications/Announcements

Delilah Donaldson, Senior Human Relations Manager, provided Commission members with the Human Relations Division Calendar for April 2016. She informed the Commission that April is "National Fair Housing Month." She provided Commission members with a copy of the "Fair Housing Month" proclamation that Mayor Bill Bell presented to the NIS Department, Human Relations Division, at the City Council meeting held on Monday, April 4, 2016; copy of the proclamation attached, (see Attachment 3). She provided Commission members with a flyer of the Human Relations Division

"Fair Housing Month" activities in April, copy of activities flyer attached, (see Attachment 4). She provided Commission members with a flyer of the 2016 Human Relations Awards Ceremony to be held on Thursday, April 28, 2016, at 6:00 PM, at Holton Career and Resource Center, with keynote speaker, Douglas Jones; copy of event flyer attached, (see Attachment 5).

9. Old Business

Update on Durham Detained Youth in ICE Custody:

Commissioner Girija Mahajan was not present at the meeting to give an update.

Commissioner Diane Standaert gave an update to the Commission that Wildin David Guillen Acosta was still being detained in ICE custody, and efforts were being made to try to get him out, so he could go back to school and graduate with his class this year.

10. New Business

Appointment of Nomination Committee for Election of Officers at May Meeting:

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, informed the Commission that he would send an email to appoint a Committee chair and committee members to serve on the Nomination Committee for Election of Officers to be held at the May meeting.

Conducting Other Business at May Meeting in Addition to Election of Officers:

Commissioner Susan Austin, Chair of Policies & Procedures Committee, reported to the Commission that in reviewing both the Human Relations Commission Ordinance and the DHRC Rules of Procedure & Powers and Duties, the committee found that neither document states that the election of officers is the only business that can be conducted at the May meeting.

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, informed the Commission that the Commission would not need to vote on this issue, and that the May meeting would be a full meeting in which other business would be conducted in addition to election of officers.

Extend April Meeting Beyond 9:00 PM:

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, asked Commission members if they wanted to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes since it was 9:00 PM, and the last agenda item on the meeting agenda, House Bill 2 Policy Discussion, had not yet been discussed.

Commissioner Diane Standaert made a motion to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes; Commissioner Risa Foster seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved.

House Bill 2 Policy Discussion:

Note: Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, sent an email to the Commission on Sunday, April 3, 2016, with an attachment of a copy of the House Bill 2 Policy (HB2) that was passed by the General Assembly of North Carolina, in preparation for the House Bill 2 Policy Discussion on the meeting agenda; copy of email and House Bill 2 Policy attached, (see Attachment 6 & 7).

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, informed the Commission that he put the House Bill 2 Policy Discussion on the agenda because he thought it was a very important issue for North Carolina and for the Commission, and since the DHRC is a unique body, and he believed the Commission had a duty to let people that are being discriminated against know that the Commission feels bad for them.

The Commission discussed the HB2 issue, with some Commission members indicating that they felt strongly against HB2, and that Durham is a city that embraces diversity, and that they thought the Commission should make a statement against HB2.

Commissioner Diane Standaert informed the Commission that she wanted the DHRC to make a recommendation to City Council to make a statement against HB2, and that she had drafted a proposed recommendation.

Extend April Meeting Beyond 9:15 PM:

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, asked Commission members if they wanted to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes since it was 9:15 PM, and the last agenda item, House Bill 2 Policy Discussion, had not been finished.

Commissioner Risa Foster made a motion to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes; Commissioner Diane Standaert seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved.

House Bill 2 Policy Discussion: (Continued)

Commissioner Diane Standaert read her draft for a proposed recommendation to City Council to make a statement against HB2.

The Commission discussed the draft of the proposed recommendation, and the Commission decided that a minor word revision would be made to the draft of the proposed recommendation to make the recommendation statement broader.

Commissioner Diane Standaert read the revised draft of the proposed recommendation to City Council to make a statement against HB2.

Commissioner Risa Foster made a motion to approve the proposed recommendation to City Council to make a statement against HB2; Commissioner Franklin Hanes seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved with eight (8) votes “For” the motion, and zero (0) votes “Against” the motion.

Note: Delilah Donaldson, Senior Human Relations Manager, sent an email to the Commission on Wednesday morning, April 6, 2016, with the HB2 Recommendation that was approved by the Commission at the meeting, which had been sent to her by Commissioner Diane Standaert; copy of email attached, (see Attachment 8).

The approved recommendation reads as follows:

The Durham Human Relations Commission believes that one of the many things that makes our city great is that we are an open and accepting place. We welcome and value the participation of all Durham residents in the vibrancy of Durham’s public life. We are concerned about any action that makes it easier to discriminate against any person. Because of concerns of the impact of HB2 on many members of the Durham community, we call on the Durham City Council to call for a repeal of HB2.

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

The presentation by Attorney Douglas Jones on the 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing Cases is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2016, at 3:00 PM, in City Council Chambers at Durham City Hall.

The Durham Human Relations Commission Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2016, at 6:00 PM, at Holton Career & Resource Center.

The DHRC May 2016 Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at 6:30 PM.

The DHRC May 2016 Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at 7:00 PM.

The DHRC Election of Officers is scheduled to be held at the May 2016 Meeting.

Adjournment

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:23 PM.