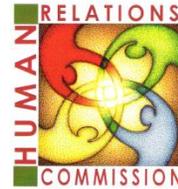




City of Raleigh  
North Carolina



## HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

### Human Relations Commission Minutes of September Meeting Held on September 8, 2016

#### **Members Present:**

Chairman Michael Leach  
Blaine Wiles  
Tanzeel Chohan  
Gail Clements McDonald  
James Purington  
Taty Padilla  
WRenia Bratts-Brown  
Keith Karlsson

#### **Members Absent:**

Chris Moutos  
Sabrina Palmer

#### **Meeting called to Order**

Chairman Michael Leach called the meeting of the Raleigh Human Relation Commission (RHRC) to order at 6:01 p.m.

#### **Approval of the Agenda**

Commissioner Taty Padilla moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner James Purington. The motion carried.

#### **Approval of the June Minutes**

Minutes were not available to approve by RHRC.

#### **Council Liaison Update**

Councilman Cox informed of his delight to see RHRC's work plan. He is looking forward in the work plan going to the Council for adoption.

#### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Michael Leach stated that Councilman Cox is supportive of the body and it is great to have his support. Chairman Leach also discussed the process of the approval of the RHRC's work plan. He informed once approval is granted by the Commissioners and Councilman Cox, it goes to Council for feedback and directions. The Chairman feels RHRC will have a productive year.

Human Relations Commission City Liaison Marionna Poke-Stewart informed the total RHRC budget for this year is \$14, 910.00, but the budget is not available as of now because the work plan is not yet approved. Chairman Leach stated that the Commission is at an interesting time in budget planning. During this time the work plan is under review, the Commission will have the opportunity to plan upcoming community outreach activities such as Unity Day and Awards Day.

Councilman Cox inquired if there was an opening on the RHRC, and if a potential candidate could be recommended to replace Dr. Scott?

New Commission members:

Keith Karlsson- Attorney (Retired) interested in Public Safety. Currently on the environment Council. The chairman welcomed Commissioner Keith Karlsson and commended his participation and of the commission eagerness to work with him in shaping public policy.

Blain Wiles- reintroduced self to the RHRC. Commissioner Wiles attend the Retreat meeting.

Chairman Leach encouraged the commission members to engage in our civil responsibility by voting. He also encouraged conversation with elected officials.

Chairman Leach welcomed a visitor. The visitor introduced self and informed of his interest of learning more about RHRC and ways to partner. Chairman Leach welcomed the visitor to return and make an official presentation to the commission members.

Chairman Leach provoked a discussion with the commission members on the pros and cons of hosting the Major's Unity Breakfast during the same times previous years. Because of the holidays and other events, hosting the Breakfast in December prevents a number of challenges. Other months were suggested such as January and February (weather challenges were discussed). The months of March and April were discussed and the Fair Housing Hearing Conference presented a challenge. The biggest concern is planning and if there is enough time to plan and execute. Commissioner Taty Padilla suggested continuing to plan for December. Chairman's Leach feels there is enough time to plan; need to engage with Vice Chair Chris Moutos.

Other discussion issues surrounding this topic:

Ideas, race and ethnic groups. Commissioner Purington urged the commission to consider the venue and how the venue may predict what culture to highlight. Human Relations Commission City Liaison Marionna Poke-Stewart suggested inviting a group from International Festival. She also informed she had a file on the groups that performed at previous Major's Unity Breakfast. This list may allow an informed selection process.

## **Commission Reports**

### **Grant Committee:**

No Report

### **Community Relations and Celebrations Committee:**

International Festival is scheduled the weekend of October 14-16, 2016. Commissioner was requested to provide available times. The fee to participate in the Festival is \$500.00, \$10.00 per table and \$2.00 per chair. The total registration fee is \$514.00. Because the work plan is not currently approved, a motion was made to support this event by allotting the funds from the budget once approved. A motion was made by Commissioner Gail McDonald and seconded by Taty Padilla.

- Chairman Leach is available on Friday, Oct. 14
- Commissioner Gail McDonald is available on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 15-16
- Commissioner Taty Padilla is available Saturday, Oct. 15
- Commissioner Blaine is available on Friday, Oct. 14
- Commissioner James Purington is available on Sunday, Oct. 16
- Commissioner Keith Karlsson is available on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 15-16
- Commissioner WRenia Bratts-Brown is available on Sunday, Oct. 16

Human Relations Commission City Liaison Marionna Poke-Stewart will solicit participation from Human Resources to fill-in time slots for the International Festival.

Commissioner Taty Padilla invited the Commissioners to attend the Neighborhood Exchange event. There is no registration fee and all are encouraged to attend.

Chairman Leach encouraged the Commissioners to attend the Women Center of Wake-Celebration at Café Luna at 6:00 P.M. in recognition to the City of Raleigh. A Silent Auction and horsd'oeuvre will be made available.

**Communication Committee:**

No Report

**Public Safety Committee:**

No Report

**Diversity Relations Committee:**

No Report

**By-Laws:**

No Report

**Nominating Committee:**

No Report

**New Business**

Human Relations Commission City Liaison Marionna Poke-Stewart informs that Jordyne Blaise needs to submit a letter of resignation. Jordyne Blaise announced in a previous RHRC meeting that she was resigning her position on the RHRC due to accepting a job in another State.

Commissioner Ricky Scott resigned his position as a Human Relation Commissioner. Mary Lucas who was a past member has made her interest known to rejoin the Human Relation Commission. A request will be submitted to the Council.

A sign-up sheet was initiated by Chairman Leach for each Commissioner to sign-up for at least two HRC committees.

**Action Items to be approved/voted upon**

Chairman Leach addresses contents in the work plan. He noted two corrections:

1. Community Engagement division is not under the structure of Human Relations Commission
2. Banquet on page 3 – see mark-through

The Commissioners were asked to review the work plan. Commissioner Tanzeel Chohan moved to approve it with the corrections. Commissioner Gail seconded the motion. The motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.