

GRANVILLE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2016

HRC Members in Attendance:

Helen C. Amis, James J. Gooch, Jason Jenkins, Harold Slaughter, Bessye McGhee, Telessie McGhee, Sarah J. Mayfield, Dennis Daniel, Michael Felts (County Manager), Ron Bullock, Tony W. Cozart, John W. Wimbush, John Gooch, and Ethel J. Anderson

Excused Absences: William Betts, Mary Cordrey, Linda Jordan and Rev. Archer Wilkins

Guests present: William Jordan (student at Oxford Prep) and his mother, Mrs. Jordan

General Welcome; Call to Order Business:

The Human Relations Commission met at the Richard H. Thornton Library, Large Conference Room on Monday, February 8, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order with a welcome by Chairman John Gooch. Prayer was rendered by Commissioner/Member Tony Cozart.

- March 2016 Calendar and Statement of Activities for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 were distributed.
- Acceptance of the January minutes (with corrections to show Bessye McGhee in attendance at the January meeting) was so moved by John Wimbush/2nd by Helen Amis; So Carried by Chairman Gooch.

Notices:

- New HRC member, Sarah Mayfield, was introduced to everyone. She is replacing Rev. Blackwell's vacant position.
- Telessie McGhee provided the following information on various HRC Committees for this meeting and HRC record purposes:
 - James J. Gooch is the new Chair of the Social Committee
 - Jason Jenkins accepted the Chair of the Publicity Committee
 - Education Committee: Tony Cozart (Chair), Mary Cordrey, member, and still require another member.
- Our visitors, Mr. William Jordan, from Oxford Prep School, and his mother were introduced by Dennis Daniel. Mr. Jordan was unable to attend and present his winning MLK essay at the MLK Breakfast in January. Mr. Jordan read his essay to the HRC Committee members. He, along with his mother, was congratulated by all before they left.
- The HRC business meeting resumed.

Public Comments: Nothing to Report.

Mr. John Wimbush asked if the HRC was allowed to publicly support political candidates. The answer was “no” the HRC could not.

Concerns from the Community: None Presented.

Committee Reports:

Education Committee: There was discussion regarding a Leadership Event. Chairman Cozart noted that he will be getting with member, Mary Cordrey and they will look at the HRC current budget and let that help drive an outline for an Agenda for the Education Committee. He also noted that he would spend some time speaking with Superintendent Howard as well.

Social Committee: Nothing to Report

Program and Planning (P&P) Committee (Dennis Daniel)

- Dennis mentioned he is looking at the months of Jan/Feb/March for planning activities.
- January program was the MLK Breakfast
- February: Looking at a Black History Speaker’s Bureau
- March should consist of a Voter’s Education Program. Re-districting and Voter’s ID are areas of concern. We should look at putting something in the new papers.
- April: Looking at Fair Housing
- October: Candidates Forum. HRC supports the Chamber of Commerce on this effort.
- A motion was made and 2nd to move the Diversity Awards Program back to the month of October. So Carried by Chairman Gooch.
- Received Dennis Daniel Report by Email. Ms. Amis read Dennis report to the membership attendees. This report was also sent out by Patrice to all members.

Grievance Committee: Nothing to Report

Publicity: Nothing to Report

Old Business:

- In response to last month discussion regarding concerns raised about Post Office hiring practices, it was noted that a letter had been prepared and is being mailed to the Post Master General.
- HRC Web Page. Ethel Anderson asked County Manager, Mike Felts, for an update on the current status for the enhancements to the Granville County Web Site that will include the HRC web page. Mr. Felts noted that a Vendor has been hired, a working group is in place and they anticipate the effort to be completed by July of this year.

Ethel Anderson asked if she could be added to the Large Scoping Working Group. Mike stated that he would check into getting her on the group.

- HRC MLK Breakfast. Chairman Gooch noted that the MLK Breakfast was a success. There were over 100 participants. The Pastor of Oxford Baptist Church was officially recognized and thanked for years of continued support of this event.
 - There has been a request for a larger facility to hold this event. This request came from Commissioner Mims. He asked that we consider Pleasant Grove Baptist Church off Highway 56.
 - Brother McGhee asked if this recommended facility would provide the same services that Oxford Baptist Church provides to us each year.
 - It was noted that a letter needs to go out for a Speaker's Bureau.
 - County Manager, Mike Felts, noted that we should consider cutting back on the number of tickets HRC members receive as there are not enough tickets left for the public (county citizens) to receive them.
 - A motion was made by Ron Bullock and 2nd by Tony Cozart to limit the number of tickets to two (2) per HRC member. This motion was amended to add: if there are any additional tickets left after public distribution, HRC members will be able to obtain them. Motion Carried.

New Business

- Pledge of Allegiance. Member, Harold Slaughter requested that the HRC consider adding the Pledge of Allegiance as part of the HRC official opening Agenda. A motion was officially presented by Harold Slaughter, 2nd by Tony Cozart and so carried by Chairman Gooch.

Adjournment:

There was a motion made to adjourn the HRC meeting by Telessie McGhee; so carried by Chairman Gooch. The meeting was adjourned approximately 7:55 p.m.

John Gooch, Chairman
Ethel Anderson, Assistant Secretary