

# GRANVILLE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

## Minutes

Monday, June 13, 2016

**Members in Attendance:** Telessie McGhee, James J. Gooch, Helen C. Amis, Patrice Wilkerson, Ron Bullock, Harold Slaughter, David Smith, Mary Cordrey, Jason Jenkins, John Wimbush, Tony Cozart, Bessye McGhee

**Members Excused:** William Betts, Diane Green, Archer Wilkins, Sarah Mayfield, Ethel Anderson, Dennis Daniel

The Human Relations Commission met in the Town Hall of Stem on June 13, 2016 with the Chairman, the Reverend John Gooch, presiding. Following greetings from the Chair, David Smith gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Renee Green welcomed the group to Stem and voiced her delight in having the Commission meet in Stem.

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Upon the motion of James Gooch and second of Jason Jenkins, minutes of the previous meeting were received as printed.

### **Public Comment:**

Jason Jenkins shared community matters. He was told that money had been designated for the groups – “Unwrapping the Gift” and “He Matters.” He wished clarification. The Chair informed that this would be discussed later.

Discussion ensued concerning Don Jenkins and his request for assistance with the Washington case. It was noted that Attorney Darby had been contacted and Telessie McGhee was asked to contact Michael Putney, the Assistant District Attorney. The Commission is exploring what it can do to help the family.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Program and Planning** - No report

**Social** - No report

**Education** - Bessye McGhee reported that the Youth Leadership Forum went well. The speakers, Judge Carolyn Yancey Thompson; James Speed, retired President of North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company; and the Reverend Chris Aho, Pastor of Oxford Baptist Church were outstanding. Young people who attended were appreciative and eager participants. Even though there were a few glitches, the program was a success. Upon his arrival, Chairman Cozart had the opportunity to thank members for their support and stated that plans would be underway for next year’s sponsorship.

**Publicity** - Jason Jenkins stated that he would assist in getting an article covering the forum to the Creedmoor Butner News. He also suggested honoring the newspaper for the excellent coverage they continue to give the Commission.

**Grievance** - No report

**Old Business:**

Chairman Gooch passed out certificates to some of the members who had attended the session on Fair Housing conducted by Phillip Jordan.

**Financial Statement:**

The Financial Statement for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 was earlier distributed. After discussion by the Chair, Jason Jenkins moved that contributions of \$500 each be given to Unwrapping the Gift, He Matters, ACIM and the Boys and Girls Club – a total of \$2000 to be disbursed by June 30. (Jason suggested that perhaps we could get students from these organizations for the Youth Forum next year. It was also suggested that possibly \$1000 be allocated for next year’s Forum.)

**Candidates Forum:**

There have been complaints concerning the location of the Candidates’ Forum. Chairman Gooch informed that plans are underway to expand the program to include nominees on all levels of government and to consider a central and larger site. It is his desire that the Chamber of Commerce as well as others join in sponsorship.

**MLK Breakfast:**

Requests continue to be made for moving the breakfast to the southern end of the county. Questions were asked, “Will those who wish the site to be changed prepare the food? Will they set up the eating facility? “Will they clean up following the meal?” Oxford Baptist Church does all of this. In years past, when the breakfast was held in the southern end of the county, the majority of the people who attended were from Oxford. After giving a brief history of the MLK Breakfast, David Smith moved that an award be given at the breakfast in memory of Reverend Blackwell to read –

The Granville County Human Relations Commission  
Presents  
The Martin Luther King, Jr. Award  
In memory of Reverend Robert O. Blackwell  
“Building Bridges...etc. etc

The motion was seconded by Mary Cordrey and carried unanimously. The group agreed that Smith present the award at the breakfast.

As to the site for the breakfast, David Smith moved “that we stay where we are.” (Oxford is the county seat and centrally located.) The motion was seconded by Helen Amis and carried.

Reverend Gooch stated that the County Manager requested that criteria for MLK Breakfast essays be out by the second week of school. It was the consensus that criteria be in the hands of teachers by the second week of school and returned to the Committee by late November.

Telessie McGhee moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Reverend John Gooch, Chairman  
Bessye McGhee, Acting Secretary