



Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 12, 2021, 5:30 p.m.
Cliffdale Recreation Center, 6404 Cliffdale Road
In-Person and Zoom Meeting

Present: Chairman, Eric Olson; Secretary, Semone Pemberton; Commissioner Samar Abdelfatah; Commissioner Milette Harris; Commissioner Eileen Hatch; Commissioner William “Bill” J. Milton, II; Commissioner Dwight Palmer (via Zoom); Commissioner Peter Pappas; Commissioner Donna Pelham; Commissioner J. Vernon Peterson; Commissioner Tammy Six (via Zoom); and Commissioner Myahtaeyarra Warren (via Zoom).

Absent: Vice-Chairman Franco Webb and Commissioner Mark Kendrick

Staff Present: Jay Toland, Assistant City Manager; Yamile Nazar, Interim Director; Stephanie Lorenc, Administrative Specialist; and Janet Beaudry, Office Assistant II.

Guests: Dr. Anthony Wade, Victoria Walker, and Shantell McBride.

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m. by Chairman Eric Olson, followed by a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to approve the August 12, 2021, agenda was made by Commissioner Warren, seconded by Secretary Pemberton; vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the June 10, 2021, minutes was made by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Hatch; vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Harris noted that the June minutes state that there are six scholarships, but there were actually only two awarded.

The first item to be discussed was City SPIRIT, and Ms. Nazar said that the DOJ has sent four tentative dates and that there are 75 people confirmed that they wish to participate. Ms. Nazar also said the coliseum complex can accommodate everyone with social distancing. Mr. Toland said that the Commission should plan to address the August 23rd City Council meeting, with this

information. Commissioner Warren asked about facilitating the session, and Ms. Nazar said the facilitators will be selected by the DOJ. Commissioner Abdelfatah asked if the Commissioners could add to the 75, and informed yes.

Chairman Olson said the By-Laws state three standing committees, and a total of five committees. He also said that the committees could have people on them who are not Commissioners, but that the Chair of the committees must be a Commissioner. Secretary Pemberton asked about signing up for the various committees today, and Chairman Olson said yes, those that are present could sign up today at the end of the meeting. Nominating Committee was for nominating the officers. He asked for volunteers, and Commissioners Pelham, Milton, and Hatch volunteered.

September 25th and 26th is the International Folk Festival. Some discussion followed about the role of the Commissioners and the Fair Housing Board at the Festival. Motion to participate in the IFF was put forth by Commissioner Pappas and seconded by Commissioner Milton. The vote was unanimous.

Guest, Dr. Anthony Wade, spoke about the resolution that is going to the State Legislature. He said that Former Chair Sheila Cuffee, who is a member of the North Carolina State Human Relations Commission, asked if this Commission would co-sign the resolution. It is The Resolution in Support of Policy Recommendations to Advance Housing Access and Human Relations in North Carolina. He said that Ms. Nazar would follow up on this, and Chairman Olson spoke to getting it out to the Commissioners.

Dining & Dialogue was next on the agenda, and Commissioner Abdelfatah spoke about what she envisioned for the event. Ms. Nazar noted that the Commission has already voted to have a D&D on Ramadan, and that the staff just needs a date. Commissioner Harris spoke to the fact that it is a diversity, equity, and inclusion issue, and that the Commission should not postpone this event. Commissioner Abdelfatah said that she would have someone at each table to answer questions about Ramadan and the Muslim culture in general. Ms. Nazar suggested the last Thursday in October which is the Executive Committee meeting. A motion was put forth by Commissioner Harris to cancel the Executive Committee meeting and have the Dining & Dialogue event take place that Thursday, October 28th. Secretary Pemberton seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. Commissioner Harris put forth another motion to have each Commissioner pick five people who are different from themselves to attend the D&D event which would ensure diversity. Secretary Pemberton seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Discussion followed about the date and location for the annual retreat. Chairman Olson reviewed the purpose of the retreat; to welcome new members and invite the Fair Housing Board to attend. The tentative dates are Saturday, October 9, and Saturday, October 23, depending on availability of a location.

Commissioner Harris spoke about the funds that were being held by Patriot Outreach, and how that money is now gone. She said there was no accounting by Patriot Outreach on where the money came from or went to, and the person who was in charge of the money is no longer with

Patriot Outreach. Commissioner Harris also said that there were only two scholarships that went out this year, and they were from Cumberland Community Foundation. Ms. Nazar said that the City could set up an account for the Commission to handle their funds. She also said that she and Vice-Chairman Webb are going to set up meetings with both the local and national representatives of Patriot Outreach. Mr. Toland explained that the City would hold any fundraising monies for the Commission and with the proper authority making the request, disburse those funds as required. Ms. Nazar said that any leftover funds would roll over into the next fiscal year. Discussion followed about other possible ways to raise money other than the awards banquet. Motion by Commissioner Harris to roll over the partial scholarship money that was not used. Second by Commissioner Peterson, and the vote was unanimous. A question was raised about the County's role and it was noted that the County is always represented at the ARA banquet.

Secretary Pemberton explained the Project Matrix as approved initiatives, proposed initiatives, and completed initiatives. Proposed initiatives are those that need further discussion and/or action by the Commission when the initiative will then move to either approved or completed.

Director's Report

Ms. Nazar, the Interim Director, said that there was an initial meeting with the Mayor of Spring Lake, and that they would like to host *The Hate U Give* forum, but due to challenges in the town, it has been postponed.

She also gave an update on the DEI training at FTCC which was this past Tuesday and it went well. She said they want another training in October and she is hopeful that she can invite the Commission to attend.

Ms. Nazar said that the Fayetteville Observer has a Community Advisory Board, and they asked her to be on it. They want her to write an article in response to the family of nine who were having difficulty finding affordable housing for a family that large. The article will be about Fair Housing and the protections for families with children.

Secretary Pemberton asked if the LGBTQ+ and veterans initiative has moved forward. Chairman Olson said he is waiting for a date to present to Council. Motion was proposed by Commissioner Harris that the Commission present to City Council the document on LGBTQ+ and veterans be included in the City Charter. Second by Commissioner Milton, and the vote was unanimous to present on Tuesday, September 7th.

Secretary Pemberton asked about the Dining & Dialogue with the Youth Council, and Ms. Nazar said she was waiting to hear from them about the next subject and date for the event.

Commissioner Harris noted that the Department of Defense is working on new initiatives on sexual harassment/sexual assault in the military. She said that the Air Force will have an article in the Uniform Code on sexual harassment.

Chairman Olson listed out the different committees for everyone to sign up for after the meeting.

The next regular Commission meeting will be on September 9, 2021; location to be determined. The Executive Committee meeting will be on August 26, 2021, and it will be held in the Training Room at Festival Park Plaza.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Milton; seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Approved_____

Semone Pemberton, Secretary