

**Proposed Minutes for the May 21, 2024
Pitt County Human Relations Commission**

The Pitt County Human Relations Commission met on May 21, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Eugene James Auditorium, with Chairwoman Jessica Williams presiding.

Members Present:

Mark Rasdorf, LGBTQ+
Mary Moyer, Town of Simpson
Carl Wilson, Town of Bethel
Byung Lee, Asian-American
Toni Heffner, Town of Ayden
Carlton Dawson, At-Large
Luther Hemby, At-Large-Faith Community
Juan Garcia, LatinX
Nancy Ray, City of Greenville
Lucas Seijo, Town of Grifton

Members Absent:

Sharon Rochelle, DSS
Veronica Roberson, Town of Winterville
Shantel Hawkins, NAACP
LaChauncey Staton, Sheriff's Office
Wes Gray, Public Health
Andrew Shue, Faith Community
Mary Perkins-Williams, Board of Commissioners

Staff Members Present:

Jessica Williams, Community Relations Coordinator/Chairwoman
Florida Hardy, Asst. County Manager People & Community/HR Director

Call Meeting to Order

Chairwoman Williams called meeting to order at 6:16pm.

Roll Call

Community Relations Coordinator, Jessica Williams called the roll and stated there was a quorum.

Chairwoman Williams asked for a motion to excuse Sharon Rochelle, Veronica Roberson, Shantel Hawkins, LaChauncey Staton, Wes Gray. Mayor Carl Wilson made a motion to excuse Sharon Rochelle, Veronica Roberson, Shantel Hawkins, LaChauncey Staton, Wes Gray. Ms. Moyer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Approval of April 16th minutes

Mr. Hemby made a motion to accept April 16th minutes as presented. Mr. Rasdorf seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Chairwoman Williams stated no one signed up for public comment.

Report of Community Relations Coordinator

Chairwoman Williams reminded the board that the next HRC meeting will be June 18th, 2024 at 6pm located in the Eugene James Auditorium.

The Commission agreed and voted to cancel the July 16th meeting to focus on the listening session that is scheduled that day.

Ms. Heffner made a motion to cancel the July 16th meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Ray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Old Business

The America 250 NC application has been submitted an update will be sent out once received via email.

New Business

Chairwoman Williams reintroduced having an organizational meeting the Commission agreed to wait until the fall to schedule the organizational meeting to ensure we have full attendance.

Chairwoman Williams mentioned the Mosaic Fest hosted by Emerge Gallery and stated they are currently looking for vendors and she will work on getting a table for the HRC.

The Commission agreed with recognizing June as Pride month, Chairwoman Williams stated she would work on gathering information and will update the Commission via email.

The Commission gave a recap of the listening sessions they attended:
Belvoir:

1. More recreation
2. Animal services
3. ECU Emergency waiting times
4. More stores (gas station, grocery stores)
5. Getting resources to that side of the river

Unitarian Universalist Church:

Concerns

1. Housing
2. Outreach programming/initiatives in support of for
3. Real estate development
4. Employment
5. Unsafe drivers
6. Social disconnect
7. Opportunities for youth and the elderly

Juan mentioned the need to have HRC flyers in Spanish. Chairwoman Williams stated she would work with PIO on this and also send out the listening session notes via email.

Committee Reports

- Executive- The Committee will be constructing materials for the organizational meeting.
- Youth Involvement-no update
- Community Issues and Actions-no update

Questions/Comments

Mr. Dawson stated this month, May 17, 2024 is be honored as the 70th anniversary of Brown verse Board of Education, a pivotal ruling by the Supreme Court that founded that racial segregation in public school unconstitutional, May 17, 1954. He encouraged everyone to look into this case. The Commission suggested looking into ways to honor Mr. Teel and those involved in this case for their dedication and hard work.

Mr. Hemby mentioned he spoke with the Winterville Police Chief and he wants help from the faith community and the HRC regarding helping push the community forward in a positive way.

Ms. Heffner asked if there were any programs that went into the community to help citizens check and replace their smoke detectors. Chairwoman Williams mentioned Pitt County has a program and she will send the details over via email.

Community Announcements

- Pitt HRC will be hosting a community listening session July 16th. 6pm-7pm at the Winterville Town Hall Assembly Room (2571 Railroad St. Winterville, NC 28590).
- June 15th 1-4pm the Northern Pitt County Improvement Association will be hosting a free Community Health and Wellness Fair at 2197 Old River Road Greenville, NC 27834.
- Mr. Rasdorf mentioned the [Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge](#) will be hosting a celebration of the [“The Paddock Public Art Sculpture on Dickinson Avenue”](#) on Saturday, June 29 from 4pm – 5pm at 1006 Dickinson Avenue (parking in Downtown Greenville is FREE!)

Adjourn

With no additional items of business to discuss, Mr. Hemby called for a motion to adjourn, Mr. Rasdorf seconded and it carried unanimously. Mr. Hemby adjourned the meeting at 7:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Williams
Jessica Williams, Community Relations Coordinator