

Proposed Minutes for the August 20, 2024 Pitt County Human Relations Commission

The Pitt County Human Relations Commission met on August 20, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Eugene James Auditorium, with Chairwoman Jessica Williams presiding.

Members Present:

Mark Rasdorf, LGBTQ+
Carl Wilson, Town of Bethel
Carlton Dawson, At-Large
Luther Hemby, At-Large-Faith Community
LaChauncey Staton, Sheriff's Office
Mary Perkins-Williams, Board of Commissioners
Sharon Rochelle, DSS
Veronica Roberson, Town of Winterville
Juan Garcia, LatinX
Nancy Ray, City of Greenville
Mary Moye, Town of Simpson
Byung Lee, Asian-American

Members Absent:

Shantel Hawkins, NAACP
Wes Gray, Public Health
Toni Heffner, Town of Ayden
Lucas Seijo, Town of Grifton
Andrew Shue, Faith Community

Staff Members Present:

Jessica Williams, Community Relations Coordinator/Chairwoman

Call Meeting to Order

Chairwoman Williams called meeting to order at 6:06pm.

Roll Call

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

Chairwoman Williams asked for a motion to excuse Toni Heffner and Lucas Seijo Commissioner Perkins-Williams made a motion to excuse Toni Heffner and Lucas Seijo. Mr. Dawson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Approval of June 18th minutes

Mr. Staton made a motion to accept June 18th minutes as presented. Commissioner Perkins-Williams 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 September 17th meeting will be held at the Eugene James Auditorium.

Advertisement for the vacant seats has been sent out and published on the County website, contact will be made with Clerks of the vacant municipalities.

For the September meeting there will be a guest speaker Meech Carter with the North Carolina League of Conservation Voters to go over the Inflation Reduction Act. Mr. Hemby spoke about the program and gave background on the speaker.

Old Business

Chairwoman Williams stated there will be a meeting with America 250 NC on 8/22 and she will provide updates at the next meeting.

Chairwoman Williams brought up hosting a community clean up and asked the Commission how they wanted to plan it. Mr. Staton mentioned partnering with other organizations that are already doing the work. Chairwoman Williams stated she would look into Pitt County recycling. Mr. Hemby suggested we go to each County we represent. Commissioner Perkins-Williams stated the state will provide materials for clean-up. Mr. Garcia mentioned reaching out to high schools maybe ROTC.

New Business

Chairwoman Williams explain the subcommittees duties and members, she also explained that the feedback we received from the listening sessions will be used to create an action plan. The task of community clean up and listening session action plan was assigned to the Community Issues and Actions Committee with the help of the full Commission.

Mr. Lee mentioned his black belt groups is looking to get involved in community clean up and they would be open to partnering with the HRC on this effort.

Chairwoman Williams stated she met with Mr. Troy with the State HRC regarding voting, he recommended that the HRC sticks to getting involved with information citizens on voting rights but not registering people to vote, that should be done individually not on behalf of the Commission.

Committee Reports

- Executive- No update
- Youth Involvement- Nancy Ray was added to this Committee
- Community Issues and Actions- Veronica Roberson was added to this Committee

Committees should start back meeting monthly.

Questions/Comments

There was conversation about youth and incarceration and the roles the different County departments play and what could be improved.

Councilwoman Roberson mentioned the lack of resources and the accessibility for citizens. Chairwoman Williams stated she will work on creating a resource list and posting it on the webpage. Commissioner Perkins-Williams stated the Community Issues and Actions Committee will help with this task.

Mr. Dawson mentioned he serves on the board of SECU and explained their housing rehabilitation program. He is going to reach out to the board to see if someone would speak more in depth about the program at a future HRC meeting.

Community Announcements

- On Tuesday, September 17, 2024, through Wednesday, September 18, 2024, the North Carolina Civil Rights/Human Rights Conference will be held at the Tony Rand Center located on the campus of Fayetteville Technical Community College, 2220 Hull Road, Fayetteville, North Carolina 28303. Register here: [Statewide Human Rights/Civil Rights Conference sponsored by NC - NAHRW Registration, Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 8:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- Housing Authority of the City of Greenville (HACG) will be hosting a PUBLIC HEARING August 22, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. HACG Multipurpose Room, 1103 Broad Street & via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86023581168?pwd=B9xtpH2CK8zlqN5LTVy5P4bg7wb8C.1> Meeting ID: 860 2358 1168 Passcode: 257952. The Housing Authority of the City of Greenville (HACG) invites all interested citizens to attend an In-person & Zoom public hearing to provide comments regarding the proposed changes to the Public Housing Lease. [Public Notice of Public Hearing August 22, 2024 \(07/19/2024\) - News Archives - Housing Authority of the City of Greenville | North Carolina \(ghanc.net\)](#)
- Pitt County Animal Services will be hosting public input sessions August 20th at the Mark Owens Auditorium 403 Government Circle, Greenville, North Carolina and August 22 at the Community Schools and Rec Center Large Multipurpose room 4561 County Home Rd, Greenville, NC 2785 Both will be from 5:30-7pm.

Adjourn

With no additional items of business to discuss, Mayor Wilson called for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Roberson seconded and it carried unanimously. Mayor Wilson adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Williams
Sharon Rochelle
Jessica Williams, Community Relations Coordinator
Sharon Rochelle, Secretary