

Wake Forest Human Relations Council

Minutes
April 22, 2010
7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Sherry Burchett, Allyson Rayfield, Karen McVicker, Meredith Brown, Henrietta Coursey, Nicole Hedrick and Tammy Moody

Absent: Bill Slater, Adriane Young, Angelo Pettis and Anne Hines

Guest: Mark Williams, Town Manager

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Action: Meredith Brown made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 22, 2010 meeting and was seconded by Allyson Rayfield. The motion carried unanimously.

Business:

Sherry Burchett introduced Mark Williams, Town Manager to everyone. Ms. Burchett told the Council that Mr. Williams was here to discuss the ideas that the Board had concerning getting the Human Relation Council involved in community outreach. This matter was discussed at the Board Retreat in January and the HRC discovered that the Town will be doing something concerning the community and the HRC wants to get involved in community outreach as well. Mr. Williams stated that the HRC did this in the past at the Dubois Center and the Alston Massenburg Center where people in the community gathered along with the Commissioners and town staff. He mentioned that town staff is willing to do this community outreach but the HRC needs to organize the meetings and the town will see that it is publicized. Mr. Williams suggested meeting at some of the subdivisions or homeowner associations because people tend not to come to Town Hall for such meetings. Mr. Williams mentioned a Focus Group that was established some time ago. He said that random surveys were distributed and the focus was on "Small Town Charm." Two of the Council members attend the Focus Group (Meredith Brown & Henrietta Coursey). Mr. Williams told the Council that the information has been compiled from the Focus Group meeting but the information has not been sent out as of yet. Ms. Brown said that she thought the meetings were very effective and the meetings were involved and she felt as if the HRC could do something of that caliber with targeting different communities. Nicole Hedrick asked what is realistic in tackling something such as when can they get started. It was mentioned maybe one once a month beginning in September. Ms. Burchett said the timing for September would be good because that is when the town will be celebrating Good Neighbor Day as this would be good publicity for this event. She also mentioned that the HRC challenge will focus on such areas as South of Burlington Mills Road. Ms. Hedrick thought the collaboration between the Town and the HRC was a great idea and wondered what the agenda would be. Karen McVicker asked if maybe the HRC could piggyback on some of the information from the Focus Groups. Mr. Williams stated that Bill Crabtree, Public Information Officer for the Town would also like to know how people are getting their information. It was mentioned again to start with the homeowner associations and use this as a beginning to get the word out and if they know that they will have town representatives attending them people will more than likely participate. The focus would be on "How do you feel included?"

Ms. Burchett mentioned that the mailings "Our Towne News" from the Town were great. Ms. Coursey commented that we need a Community Awareness Day. She was impressed with the Fire Department's Fish Fry. Ms. Coursey said this would have been a good time to hand out flyers for the Good Neighbor Day event and members of the HRC should carry flyers with them especially if they are attending an event of this magnitude because this will promote our upcoming event. National Night Out was mentioned as another means of getting the word out for GND.

Lastly, Mr. Williams discussed the function and roles of the HRC. He told them that the HRC is set up to foster community spirit and learn about each other. He also told them that the HRC is different from the HRC Commission. The Commission deals with investigations and come up with findings and this HRC is an Advisory Board of the Town Board of Commissioners. He said if concerns come up from the HRC Commission, these concerns need to be presented to the Town Board of Commissioners, Anne Hines or town staff. He also said that if they have community type concerns, for example, disenfranchised community, the HRC needs to come to the Town Board of Commissioners and address the concern to them. He asked that the HRC direct any concerns to him especially when they have been approached with a concern from a citizen.

Other Business

Ms. Burchett mentioned that she had been contacted by the City of Raleigh Fair Housing Board and they want the HRC to be involved with their Awareness Program. They had a conference and no one was available to attend.

Each HRC member was emailed a copy of the updated flyer for Good Neighbor Day. Comments were, the flyer looks great but a suggestion was made to make one change. Ms. Rayfield will get back with Mr. Crabtree to make that change.

Ms. Coursey wanted to know if the town had any flyers with the Board of Commissioners and Town Staff names on them, Mr. Williams told her that that is something that could be worked on.

Interns for Advisory Boards were mentioned. It was said that these interns would be kept very busy and this would give them some experience and would be very educational for them.

Meet in the Street

Meet in the Street was discussed. Schedules were given out for this event. This events starts at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. The members will follow this schedule: Anne Hines & Sherry Burchett will set up the table and tent.

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Nicole Hedrick, Bill Slater and Sherry Burchett

Karen McVicker & Henrietta Coursey

Allyson Rayfield, Adriane Young, Angelo Pettis and Meredith Brown

Good Neighbor Day

Sponsorship for Good Neighbor Day was discussed. Some are on target and others are still waiting. One member stated that Target Department Store is willing to sponsor, but can also be a challenge. Target Department Store is geared towards scholarships. A suggestion was made to have students write an essay on "What does it mean to be a Good Neighbor" and present that to the HRC Council for a contest to see if Target would sponsor a scholarship to the winner of the essay.

With no further business to come before the Council, Meredith Brown made a motion, seconded by Nicole Hedrick to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sherry Burchett
Chairman

Tammy Moody
Staff Liaison