



Community Relations Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes – July 13, 2023
757 S Anderson Rd., Rock Hill, SC

Attending: Shekinah Miller, Kameron Midkiff, Gigi Anderson, Cynthia Ware, Ann Williamson, Maggie Schwietert, Lindsay Machak, Taninya Smith, Rena Hunter

City Staff: Leslie Galvez

Absent: Reginald Brackett, Darryl Cunningham, Summersby Okey and Jason Weil, City Liaison

The refreshments were catered by RoCo and was eaten as we went through the meeting.

- I. Call to Order
 - The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM.
- II. Moment of Silence and Purpose Review
- III. Approval of Minutes from June's Meeting
 - The minutes were read silently and approved by Maggie and seconded by Kameron.
- IV. Old Business
 - a. CRC Social Media Member Promotion
- V. New Business
 - a. Race Equity Month
 - The 29th and the 30th of September were not available at Emmett Scott. It was given the OK to have the Race Equity event on the 23rd of September. The food situation is if it given voluntarily, and not for purchase, and is eaten at your own risk, that is on the individual and not on the city. Taninya suggested that maybe we do desserts or a cookie bar, shelf stable items. This idea was given a thumbs up.
 - Leslie suggested a meeting with Saint Anne representative from their International Fair to connect with international vendors. GiGi suggested that we contact the international department of Winthrop to be inclusive. Taninya says she will contact them.
 - The quilt squares will be utilized at the Food Truck, the CRC will order the squares and Kameron volunteered to sew the squares together. People from different nationalities will be asked to draw or paint something from their country on the squares. The finished product will be displayed at CRC functions.
 - b. MLK Breakfast/ Event
 - GiGi reported on the caterer, who says that the kitchen at Elevation is not adequate according to DHEC standards. The stage for the choir, according to Tan Barber, the MLK Choir Director, is also inadequate to accommodate the elderly and assist handicapped individuals to go up and down the steps to the stage.
 - Asked Jason and Leslie to set up a meeting with First Baptist Church to go over the contract.
 - A suggestion was brought up us hosting a youth event at Elevation and was agreeable with the group that we go ahead and try to get this off the ground, if Elevation would be interested in partnering.
- VI. Togetherness and Community Retreat
 - a. Take a Stand Interactive Activity

- Two lines were formed with a gap in the middle. Questions were asked and if you identified with any of them, you were to step into the gap and then step out. This exercise was to show that we do have diversity within the Council.
- b. Review Community Listening Session Data
- Shekinah went through the Community Listening Sessions Data. 27% want to see more affordable housing opportunities. 20% wanted more recreational opportunities for disadvantaged youth. 20% want to see better income and economy to meet the standard of living. 16% said social cohesion and community empowerment to connect with neighbors is needed. 11% say health care access and quality is needed in Rock Hill. 6% feel we need a better transportation system. The consensus was that more or improved trust and cohesion is needed in our communities.
 - The question was asked, how do we address these needs as they have been presented and get change in our communities. Cynthia suggested that we start with voter education/initiative because nothing can or will change until the people charged with making the decisions are changed. People need to be in office that are interested in seeing the same things as the community has stated they want to see. It was stated that people want to see change but will not go to the polls to exercise the vote to enact change. Unless it's a national election, many people will not vote.
 - Maggie suggested a citizen's boot camp as a way that we can educate people on who we are and how we can help them to get the information they need to be an informed voter. Possibly doing the boot camp after the MLK event. It was suggested that we start with social media and then branch out to in person interactions. Shekinah says she will get in touch with Reggie Jennings who does a lot of volunteer work about the idea and will report back at the next subcommittee meeting.
- c. Our Internal and External Community
- The meeting then turned to the personality test and what category each people fit in.

VII. Announcements and Concerns

a. City Announcements

b. Other Announcements

- i. We were informed that Bob Korkowski has resigned from the board due to his health and will need to be replaced.

VIII. Adjournment

- The meeting came to an end at 7:55 PM.