

February 8, 2024 - Community Relations Meeting

Attending: Shekinah Miller, Rena Hunter, Maggie Schwietert, Reggie Brackett, GiGi Anderson, Lindsey Machak, Victor Street, Ann Williamson, Cynthia Ware, Summersby Okey-Hamrick and Taninya Smith

City Liaison: Jason Weil, Queen Lundy

Not Attending: Kameron Midkiff, Darryl Cunningham

The meeting started at 6:05 p.m. with a moment of silence, purpose review and reading of the minutes. Introductions were made for the benefit of the new co-liaison Queen before action was taken on the minutes.

The minutes were accepted without correction. Moved by Lindsey and seconded by Ann Williamson.

Shekinah asked for suggestions on the sub-committee meetings and whether to keep it as a set meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month or open and scheduled as needed. It was suggested that we just keep it open and decide at each regular meeting when to have it based on the need. She asked the group to keep thinking about it and bring any other suggestions to the next meeting.

CRC Commitment - Shekinah asked the members to let someone know if you will not be able to attend a CRC sponsored event. She also stated that we need to do a better job in our scheduling of events by checking to see if there are other organizations having any events so that we may support them by attending. Rena suggested that we utilize the Google Calendar in our planning of events. Taninya suggested that we also use Social Media and the internet to list and keep up with what is going on within the Rock Hill Community.

Black History Update - Jason reported that we will have the Tours, hosted by Stephen Turner this year. The tours will be on February 24. We will definitely have 2 tours with the possibility of a 3rd if the demand is there. There will also be the possibility of a 3rd bus, if a driver can't be secured. If we see the buses filling up, we will do a wait list for a 3rd tour. The official flyer will be released tomorrow internally and to the people on last year's wait list then spread it out to the general population. There were approximately 40 people still on the wait list from last year. The bus carries 15 including the driver. Need CRC volunteers to assist, one to check people in and one to assist on the buses. GiGi, Victor, Rena, Taninya and Shekinah will assist.

Race Equity - We need to start planning now for this year's event. Some of the people and groups contacted last year said they would have possibly participated if they had known about the plans earlier. This will be one of the things to be discussed at the next meeting.

Listening Session - Things went well, even though it was not well attended. Shekinah stated that she found out that there was a Race and Reconciliation event on the same evening that may have played a part in our attendance. It was also stated that the conversations at this session was great

with some very good answers and statements. Shekinah also said that she would like to see the symposium expanded to include a youth specific listening session. She suggested a youth photo session, where they would take pictures and come back and discuss what was taken. This is still in the thought process.

MLK Breakfast Post Event- Shekinah said it was an awesome event and that the changes to the ticketing and table assignments went well. GiGi brought back suggestions from the caterer about some things (1) Have the head table eat their breakfast before going up on the rostrum (2) Continue to open the buffet line earlier because it is less congested, the lines are not that long and they move better (3) Make sure that we have all of the tables ready and set up on Sunday, having to set tables the morning of the event, delays them being ready to go. (4) Pre-order the head table breakfast if they do not eat before going up on the rostrum, so that there is no one on the stage taking orders. It was then suggested by someone in the CRC group, that we use the choir room for the head table guest to eat their breakfast before going up, since that room is already set up for the choir. Summersby's said that she and Cameron suggests that the check in tables be moved closer to the actual entrance of the facility; that we utilize Google docs with laptops to the actual check ins. On the Sunday that we set up, they also suggest that we do markers for the tables before we actually start setting them up. Lindsey suggested that we have pre-set duties for each CRC members going in, so everyone would know what they will be responsible for doing. Victor suggested that we assign the volunteers to specific duties as well. Reggie thanked everyone for their efforts and participation in making the breakfast the success that it was. He also brought thanks to the council from Ben Watson for our having him as the speaker. There is also the possibility of a donation coming from him. He stated that the Youth event was awesome and that we continue it after some tweaking of the things that went well and those that did not. Taninya suggested that we have a hands on event going forward, something more interactive and that an engagement segment be implemented for them going forward. She also suggested that we provide some type of refreshments for the next event and some type of swag for the kids. Rena suggested that we do an Ad Hoc group, made up entirely by youth to tell us what they would like to see or do at the symposium. GiGi suggested that we try and partner with some other groups that already have something in place to tell what is of interest to the majority of young people. One such group, she suggested was the Patti Panetti Group.

Election nominations - Chair (Shekinah, Maggie and Reggie) Reggie and Maggie declined

Co-Chair: Rena, the incumbent and Maggie

Secretary: No nominations prior to the meeting. GiGi nominated Cynthia to remain in the position. She accepted under the condition that we NOT all talk at the same time because it is hard to take accurate minutes when more than one person is talking. Kameron was nominated to be assistant/backup secretary. The latter is not an official position recognized by the current bylaws, but gives us a backup plan as needed..

Voting on the officers will take place at the meeting in March as the newly elected take their positions in April.

We will also have someone appointed as the timekeeper at the next meeting to keep us on task so that our line items do not take too much time or meetings go too long past our allotted time.

Announcements - Ann will be having a King and Queens Tea at the VFW on Crawford Road on February 25 from 4-7 PM. There were no other announcements.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM