

RH Community Relations Council Summer Retreat/July Meeting

Reception @ 5:30 PM

In Attendance: Victor Street, Cynthia Ware, Shekinah Miller, Reginald Brackett, Maggie Schwietert, Roxann Rawlinson-Ray, Rena Hunter, Taninya Smith, Summersby Okey-Hamrick & Gemeta Anderson.

Absent: Darryl Cunningham, Kiera Barber, Kismet Moore

City Liaisons: Jason Weil and Queen Lundy

SC Human Affairs Office: Robert Snipes and Naheem Swinton

At 5:50 PM, the meeting was called to order. We welcomed our new member Roxann Rawlinson-Ray to the CRC, followed by a moment of silence and purpose review. The minutes were approved. Maggie moved and Rena seconded.

- Equity in Action Update - Summersby spoke about the progress that has been made regarding the neglected Black Cemeteries in Rock Hill. Summersby, through her job, has partnered with CRC to initiate a clean up of Lincoln Memorial Cemetery on September 21 during Race Equity Month. The City will provide the tool shed truck. Victor suggested that Men on a Mission be contacted to assist with this clean up. The City does not own the land as they are still in the name of the Cemetery Associations that existed prior to integration of cemeteries. There is no rightful owner of the properties to be found. According to Shekinah, the CRC is advocating for fairness. The sub-committee for this initiative will be whoever is invited to participate. Summersby is asking for a sub-committee meeting in August and a trip with Habitat to visit these sites to get a grasp of what is needed to be done there. CRC's role is to educate and inform people on the existence and need for maintenance.
- **RACE EQUITY** - We are scheduled to be back as a vendor for Food Truck Friday on September 20. The quilt squares that were drawn last year by the kids visiting the CRC tent will be displayed at the event. Maggie says that the squares were so large that there will be 2 quilts to be displayed.
- **MLK BREAKFAST/EVENT:** Vote on Speaker (Vote on 1st choice & 2nd Choice). There was a tie for first and second place between Dr. Kimberly Johnson & 2nd choice is Penny Brown Reynolds. The next step is to find out their availability for the MLK breakfast, their cost to speak and then we need to come up with the theme for the occasion.
- **THE RETREAT** An ice breaking event was done to find out (1) why did you join the RH CRC. (2) What can we do as a committee (3) What experience and knowledge do you bring to RH CRC. Each person had to give their answers to the three ice breaking prompts. The representatives from SC Human Affairs Commissions gave their presentation on what other CRC's in the State are doing. Greenville has partnered with

HUD on housing discrimination, Columbia is doing food drives, back to school drives and fair housing. The Columbia CRC has been around for 60 years and has built a relationship with the governing body. They recommend that the CRC build relationship with other organizations (law enforcement, school systems, chamber of Commerce). There are two types of CRC's (Gov't funded and non-Gov't). Non-Gov't CRC's have more autonomy to get things done but lack the financial backing. They have started a training on Facility Meetings around Community Conflict on August 30, 2024, from 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM at the SC Criminal Justice Academy. It can also be brought to your city at no cost to the CRC or the City, all that is needed is a place to have the training. He says that if we are interested in the training in Columbia, have Jason forward him the number and name of those interested in participating. Robert asked what they can do to help us. Maggie asked him, what are the chances that they could come here during Food Truck Friday and set up right beside the CRC tent. He says to send him an email with all the particulars about the event and he will check to make sure that there is not a conflict on that date and time. They will come in and talk to groups on various topics at community centers around the area on varying dates. They would rather stay away from City Halls for these events.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02