

Community Relations & Development

**Commission on Community Relations and Development**  
**August 13, 2024**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Meeting Minutes**

I. Call to Order

Chair Carole Battle called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. Invocation

Member Marcus Lewis

III. Roll Call (Members Present)

Carole Battle	Marcus Lewis	Tavis Lofton
Phyllis Merritt-James	Rodney Robinson	Denise Todd
Amber Tyler	Council Jamie Taylor	

\*New Member Rodney Robinson was welcomed.

\*Member updates: Liaison notified: 1) Member Chretien Dumond has resigned.

2) Appointed Member Tondalayo Clark declined the appointment. 3) There has been no word back from Member Jeremy Whitley. If he has not responded by August 18<sup>th</sup> the committee can recommend termination to Council.

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Chair Carole Battle asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Member Phyllis Merritt-James moved to adopt the agenda. Member Tavis Lofton seconded. All were in favor and the agenda was adopted.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes (July 9, 2024)

Chair Carole Battle asked for a motion to adopt the minutes. Member Tavis Lofton pointed out an error regarding the nomination of Chair. Liaison agreed to correct the error, noting that Member Tavis Lofton nominated Member Carole Battle for Chair and not Member Phyllis Merritt-James. Member Phyllis-Merritt James moved to adopt the minutes as amended. Member Rodney Robinson seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were adopted.

VI. Old Business

A. Logos Review - Liaison shared that Vice Chair Marcus Lewis and Member Amber Tyler had provided sample logos for consideration. Liaison provided printed copies of 5 logos and members voted on paper. To not prolong the meeting, Liaison agreed to follow up by email with the winning logo.

- B. RCCA Subcommittee – Chair Carole Battle gave the floor to Liaison to share about information learned at a City public safety meeting earlier today. Liaison shared that she learned there is a local group of concerned citizens who have held meetings and taking action on initiatives to address crime in the city. Liaison also shared that a recommendation was made for all local groups to come together as we are stronger together. Chair Carole Battle discussed if the CCRD should take the lead on pulling groups together and asked if City staff Octavius Murphy could come to the September meeting to share more information. Additional discussion followed surrounding prolonged time and the need for immediate action. Liaison agreed to reach out to inquire about the local group’s meetings and ask if CCRD can attend, particularly Chair and Vice Chair, who both agreed to attend if invited. Liaison will follow up.
- C. Next Community Event – Chair Carole Battle discussed the CCRD focusing on community more by attending local events. She shared that there are a lot of events going on that CCRD can attend. She shared that she tried getting more information about the upcoming Freedom Fest but could not find any. Discussion followed about the CCRD partnering by sponsoring events. Liaison agreed to create a calendar of local events each month to share with CCRD. Chair Carole Battle shared that the CCRD has discussed creating an event box for over a year and that Member Amber Tyler took the initiative to purchase items and put a box together for National Night Out, which was canceled due to weather. Chair shared that Member Amber Tyler paid for the items with her own money and offered to reimburse her, and inquired if other members would be willing to as well. Members agreed. Member Amber Tyler will provide a total cost of items purchased. Members also discussed t-shirts with the new logo on them for events. Chair Carole Battle added that shirts would have to be paid for by members as the CCRD has no funds budgeted in City budget. Vice Chair Marcus Lewis asked about participation in the Christmas parade. The \$30 entrance fee was discussed. Chair Carole Battle offered to pay the fee.

## VII.

### New Business

A. MLK 2025 – Chair Carole Battle discussed how well MLK 2024 went and praised the subcommittee for all their hard work. She discussed that she was asked, prior to appointment as Chair, to serve as Chair for MLK Subcommittee again and she agreed. She shared that she will still Chair the subcommittee. She shared that it would be nice to have some seed money from the City to assist with the event, which will be on a smaller scale this coming year. She shared that the event will be a church service, with a speaker and a choir. There will be no ticket sales, but patrons can pay to have their names in the program. She shared further details: Father Skip Walker as speaker, continue partnership with Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, as Dr. Martin Luther King was an Alpha, having them serve as ushers at the service, have the service in the afternoon so that the presidential inauguration can be watched. Chair inquired of interest to serve on the subcommittee. All members present and Councilmember Jamie Taylor offered to serve and assist. Chair discussed that subcommittee meetings can be held immediately following regular monthly meetings.

VIII. Member Comments

1. Member Amber Tyler discussed the need for CCRD to become more visible in the community.
2. Councilmember Jamie Taylor praised Chair Carole Battle for doing a great job as Chair and encouraged the CCRD to go ahead and prepare to request funds from City Council.
3. Member Tavis Lofton shared that she is glad to be a part of CCRD. She asked that all continue to pray for our city and encouraged the group to keep moving in action.
4. Member Rodney Robinson shared that he is glad to be on the CCRD and looks forward to adding value to the group. He shared an event that his nonprofit is hosting next month and provided a flyer to the group.
5. Member Phyllis Merritt-James expressed that she was glad to be on the CCRD.
6. Chair Carole Battle shared that the CCRD needs another annual event, as other City committees host 2 events per year. She also shared the importance of members being able to contact one another and asked each member to provide their contact information. She also shared that the CCRD did not do a Christmas dinner in 2023 but should get together this year.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Carole Battle asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Amber Tyler motioned to adjourn. Member Phyllis Merritt-James seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

**\*Minutes taken and prepared by Liaison Felecia D. Williams.**