

Community Relations & Development

**Commission on Community Relations and Development
September 10, 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 Phyllis Merritt-James

III. Roll Call/Member Update/Applicant Review

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

Member Update: Liaison shared that Member Jeremy Whitley has not attended since March. Member Phyllis Merritt-James moved to recommend termination and Member Amber Tyler seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Applicant Review: Liaison shared that 4 applications had been received to fill vacant seats. After a review and discussion of applications, members agreed to recommend the 4 applicants (Eric Ostendorf, John Twitty, Jamar Branch, and Albert Van Kleeck) for appointment.

IV. Adoption of Agenda

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

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes (August 13, 2024)

Chair Carole Battle asked for a motion to approve the August minutes. Member Denise Todd moved to approve, and Member Rodney Robinson seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

VI. Old Business

A. NC Freedom Fest Report: Vice Chair Marcus Lewis, Member Rodney Robinson, and Liaison shared that the event was a success.

B. Human Relations Workshop/City of Wilson Report: Vice Chair Marcus Lewis and Liaison shared that there was a lot of beneficial information learned at the workshop and that there are a lot of things the CCRD could be doing.

- C. RCCA Subcommittee Follow-up Discussion/What's Next: Chair Carole Battle shared what she learned about the community group's initiatives and that they were holding a voting event at Mina Weil Park. The group discussed initiatives they could take on and also discussed the ideas that were brought to the table after the first roundtable in February. Members agreed to go ahead and plan for a Part 2 Community Roundtable focused on parent engagement. Members and Liaison agreed to reach out to different venues and agencies to host, facilitate, and provide refreshments for the event. Members agreed to hold the event during the October meeting.

VII. New Business

- A. Suicide Prevention Vigil / Sept. 24th: Liaison shared that the City Clerk inquired if the CCRD would hold another vigil for this month. Members agreed that another vigil should be held. Liaison shared that the event is short and simple and agreed to reach out to guests who agreed to participate in the 2023 event that got cancelled due to weather. All agreed for Liaison to move forward with putting the event together.
- B. Next Community Event / Unity Day Details (R. Robinson): Member Rodney Robinson provided details of his upcoming event and shared what he needs volunteers to do.
- C. Other Community Events / September 2024 Calendar: No further discussion.
- D. MLK 2025: Chair Carole Battle shared the following details for the event: Time is 3pm, location is St. James church, Carl & Chelle's will cater again as they are already registered as a vendor with the City, Sisters by Design will decorate again, speaker is needed (please send suggestions to Liaison), budget is being prepared to present to City Council (at Mayor's request) for funding support, entertainment discussed, and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity should be ushers.

VIII. Member Comments

1. Member Rodney Robinson inquired about items from the CCRD event box for the Unity Day event. Liaison agreed to prepare CCRD items for pick up.
2. Member Phyllis Merritt-James shared that she is celebrating her 36th wedding anniversary.
3. Vice Chair Marcus Lewis shared that he is looking forward to working on everything coming up.
4. Councilmember Jamie Talyor shared that she is glad to see progress.
5. Member Denise Todd discussed being proactive on matters.
6. Member Amber Tyler shared about WCC's Peer Support Class in November and the Oct. 29th Trunk or Treat.
7. Chair Carole Battle thanked everyone for showing up and working together.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Carole Battle asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Phyllis Merritt-James motioned to adjourn. Member Amber Tyler seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

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