



JHRC MEETING
August 9, 2011
12:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:	Parvez Ahmed, Ph.D. William "Casey" Bulgin Cristina "Tina" Comstock Dane Grey Susan Harthill, Esq. Isabelle Lopez, Esq. Yvonne McClain Ken Middleton Daniel "Dan" O'Connor Michele L. A. Rollins, Esq. Dennis Wade Cindy Watson Dottie Wilson
Commissioners Absent:	Leonard del Rosario, M.D. Maria Taylor Michael Wachholz Alvin White, Ph.D.
Staff Present:	Charlene Taylor Hill, Executive Director Linda Grant-Hunter, Assistant Director Michael Wedner, Esq., Deputy General Counsel Lisa Stafslie, Community Outreach Wayne McGovern, EO/EA Specialist Joan Dolbear, Executive Secretary

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Isabelle Lopez, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

II. Moment of Silence

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Dottie Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Casey Bulgin to approve the July 21, 2011 JHRC meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.



V. Old Business

A. 9/11 Commemoration

Commissioner Parvez Ahmed gave an overview of the 9/11 Commemoration to be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The event will be held at The Jacksonville Landing. The theme is "Moving Toward Hope and Compassion." Prior to the event, Commissioners were asked to attend and host the VIP reception starting at 5:30 p.m.

VI. New Business

A. Friends of Study Circles – Dr. James Crooks

Dr. James Crooks stated the purpose of Friends of Study Circles was to support the Study Circles program and enable Study Circles alumni to move from dialogue to action, conduct fund raising and be an advocate for the Human Rights Commission. It is hoped that by the Fall of 2011, the Friends of Study Circles will be up and running. For the present time, the Friends of Study Circles will be working under the Jacksonville Non-Profit Center.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Community Relations Committee

Commissioner Dennis Wade stated the Committee was waiting for funding to be able to proceed with the Civil Discourse project. The committee has approximately 25 action items it will be working on, some have been assigned to committee members and some have not. At the next meeting, all action items will be assigned with completion dates.

B. Communications Committee

1. City Council Visits

Commissioner Michele Rollins, Committee Chair, stated the committee spent the month of July planning to meet with City Council Members, starting with the Finance Committee. Meetings are scheduled during the August timeframe.

C. Employment Committee

Commissioner Cindy Watson, Committee Chair, stated the committee would be meeting with Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. regarding issues concerning barriers to employment. Transportation was a high barrier survey response to obtaining employment.

Commissioner Yvonne McClain has agreed to be Vice Chair for the committee.

D. Housing and Public Accommodations

Commissioner Dan O'Connor, Committee Chair, stated he had nothing new to report and the committee will be meeting on Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.



E. Special Legislative Committee

Commissioner Casey Bulgin, Committee Chair, stated the committee met on August 2, 2011 after not meeting since February 2011. The committee reviewed where they left off and discussed what the next steps would be. Equality Florida endorsed Alvin Brown for Mayor because he was in support of the LGBT community being included in the city ordinances as a protected class.

Going forward, the committee will set up a meeting with Mayor Brown to discuss this issue. An updated consensus statement was distributed. A motion was made by Commissioner Parvez Ahmed and seconded by Commissioner Cindy Watson for the General Counsel to review the consensus statement and write a resolution to include sexual orientation as a protected class in the city ordinances. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Executive Director and Staff Reports

Charlene Taylor Hill stated she met with Representative Mia Jones, Special Assistant to the Mayor and Director of Boards and Commissions. She has asked for the status of appointments, eligibility for re-appointments or vacancies. In addition, she has asked for contact information for the Commissioners. It will be used to notify Boards and Commissioners of events and for communication purposes.

The JHRC gave two presentations to the Florida State College of Jacksonville. One was a two-hour presentation on the work of the JHRC in addition to conducting a mock Study Circles. The Commission will start to track in-kind hours and Commissioners' volunteer time to highlight the value of the JHRC.

IX. Chair's Report/Comments

Commissioner Isabelle Lopez, Vice Chair, requested that all Commissioners attend the 9/11 Commemoration.

X. Announcements

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.