



St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission
February 2, 2011
Minutes

Attendees: Deborah Dennie, Wayne Lockley, Leshia Wood, Theo Cramer, Sarah Tyson, Cynthia Brown (DHS staff) Kelsey Bush (DHS staff liaison)

Not Present: Melvin McClintock (Chair), Agnes Butler

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Commission Chair, Mac McClintock.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the December 1, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

Guest Presenter: C. Aloysius Bowman, founder of the Elijah International Foundation, gave an overview of the Foundation's mission and activities. The Foundation is a faith-based non-profit established in 2008 that endeavors to create and support innovative programs and ventures in the areas of faith, environmental conservation, entertainment and education. He stressed interdependence, stating that in today's culture it is virtually impossible to exist alone without the help of others. Mr. Bowman asked the Commission for assistance in identifying other entities that could participate in and support the Foundation's mission. He also requested that the Commission support, promote and endorse the Foundation, its mission and its activities. D. Dennie asked what challenges the organization is currently facing and how the Commission can help. Mr. Bowman suggested that helping to create community awareness about the Foundation would be of great benefit.

Old Business/Updates: D. Dennie mentioned the Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast and the hope that it would take on a "certain face" next year. K. Bush ensured that the HRC was on the Prayer Breakfast agenda. Brainstorming will continue for an HRC signature event. L. Wood has been researching event venues and was unable to find one that did not charge; most charged a minimum of \$500. C. Brown confirmed that there are no funds available. T. Cramer inquired if a letter to the Commissioners from the HRC. C. Brown stated that she would like to obtain guidance from the County Administrator before approaching the Commissioners. Members then discussed alternative means to obtain funds for an event and will continue to explore possibilities.

Commissioner's Black History Month Proclamation: K. Bush stated that the BOCC will be presenting proclamations at 9am to the HRC, the NAACP and the United Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC) on February 8th. At this meeting, there will also be an update from Recreation and Parks about Lancaster Park improvements and the status of the U.S. Colored Troop Memorial that will be on display at the park. It is anticipated that the BOCC will approve and sign a letter adding them as a second grantee and co-recipient of state bond funding totaling \$300,000 for the Memorial project. K. Bush also stated that, in recognition of Black History Month, the St. Mary's County Library will have a "one-person show" on Saturday, February 12th. T. Cramer expressed a desire for the Commission to be represented at as many of these events as possible. K. Bush will communicate with Commission members to make arrangements. T. Cramer requested that K. Bush also email members about St. Mary's College events commemorating Black History Month.

T. Cramer stated that the school system will be honoring African American History by recognizing staff that facilitate multicultural experiences.

HRC Awards: Members discussed moving away from what has been done in the past. W. Lockley discussed an event that Calvert County recently held. Volunteer organizations in the community were invited to a banquet where the stand-outs were recognized and received awards. This would facilitate

community involvement while creating HRC recognition. The Commission embraced this idea and felt that October was a good month to hold this event and will continue planning.

ACTION ITEMS

⇒ T. Cramer requested that Commission Members bring a list of contacts to the next meeting to use as a starting point for event planning.

Next Meeting: March 2, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.
Governmental Center, Potomac Building, Room 14

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Adrienne Raines.