Town of Boone
Human Relations Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 4th, 2023
5:30 P.M.

Members Present: Tiffany Christian, Dana Bango, Laura Buck; Zannah Kukral attended via videoconference

Members Absent: Emily Brewer and Steven Yow

Council Liaisons present: Todd Carter; Virginia Roseman attended via videoconference

Staff Present: Amy Davis, Town Manager, Laney Pilkington, Administrative Support Specialist/Communications, and Dale Presnell, Director of Human Resources

Others Present: Mayor Tim Futrelle, Councilmember Dalton George, Town Attorney Allison Meade, and newspaper reporter Jillyan Mobley

Call to Order:
Allison Meade called the meeting to order at 5:38pm.

Tentative Agenda Adoption:
Councilmember Carter asked for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Councilmember Carter moved to adopt the agenda, Ms. Bango seconded, and members voted unanimously to adopt the agenda.

Administering of Oaths:
After a brief introduction of all members and staff present, Ms. Meade explained that she would not be present at all meetings and was there to help guide the Commission in electing the chair, vice-chair, and secretary of the Commission. However, in order to begin, all members must swear or affirm to the Oath of Office. The oath was given and all members sweared or affirmed to it. All members present also signed the Oath of Office. Members attending virtually were directed to go to Town Hall as soon as possible to sign in the presence of a notary.

Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary:
Ms. Meade explained the roles of chair, vice-chair, and secretary for the Human Relations Commission. Each position can be held by a commission member for one year, with the option to be reappointed after the original officer term expires. She went on to say that, the first order of business for the elected chair and vice-chair should be to reach out to the state Human Relations

Commission for more information in regards to training. Councilmember Carter noted that the Commission had the capacity for 10 total members, and that he encouraged all to apply. Ms. Meade stated that an additional item to be discussed is meeting times and dates for the Commission going forwards. Councilmember Roseman added that Emily Brewer, while absent at the present meeting due to a work emergency, was willing to be appointed as chair, vice-chair, or secretary if needed. Dana Bango recommended Emily Brewer be elected as chair of the Commission. Laura Buck agreed. Zannah Kukral added that they would also be willing to be appointed as chair, vice-chair, or secretary, but that they would prefer to be appointed to vice-chair due to other obligations with other commissions. Ms. Bango added that she would be happy to serve as secretary. With no further conversation, Ms. Meade asked for a motion to appoint the aforementioned positions.

Upon the motion made by Tiffany Christian, seconded by Dana Bango, the members voted unanimously to appoint Emily Brewer as Chair, Zannah Kukral as Vice-Chair, and Dana Bango as Secretary.

Discussion of Charge:

Ms. Meade gave a brief description of the Commission and the purpose of the Commission. Councilmember Carter explained that at the next Town Council meeting, a new Non-Discrimination Ordinance was set to be discussed and potentially approved, with an effective date of June 2023. He encouraged commission members to review the proposed ordinance. Ms. Bango asked if she could email the Commission the proposed ordinance. Mr. Carter agreed, and Ms. Meade gave a brief discussion in regards to open meeting laws and public records laws.

Discussion of Next Steps - Contacting the N.C.H.R.C. to Arrange Training and Obtain Guidance for Next Steps:

Ms. Meade stated that the newly elected Chair and Vice-Chair that they would need to contact the state Human Relations Commission in order to arrange training for the commission members. Additionally, Ms. Meade asked the commission members present what they felt was best in regards to meeting times and dates.

After discussion, Ms. Christian moved that the Commission meet the first Wednesday of every month at 5:30pm, for the time being in a hybrid fashion at Council Chambers and via WebEx; Ms. Bango seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

With no further discussion and with agreement of all members, Ms. Meade adjourned the meeting at 6:42pm.