

Town of Boone
Human Relations Commission Meeting 6:00 PM March 19
Town Council Chambers
1500 Blowing Rock Road
Attendees: Drew Finley, Sean Morris, Todd Carter, and Dalton George

I. Call to Order

Councilmember Carter called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM

II. Moment of Silence

The members observed a brief moment of silence

III. Announcement of HRC Board Vacancies

Councilman Carter announced that the board was in need of 7 members, but we have two current applications, with 1 more in addition to those we'll establish a quorum allowing us to vote in members. He further emphasized the need for qualified applicants.

IV. Tentative Agenda Adoption

Commission member Drew asked to amend the agenda to include a conversation about the goals and mission of the HRC. Member Morris made that motion, seconded by Drew. Motion carried 4-0

V. Public Comment

No participant engaged in public comment.

VI. Review of Human Relations Commission Binder

Chair Carter went through the details of the HRC, underlining the tie in with the State Wide HRC. Then he went on to highlight the Town's NDO and Chapter 39, which established the Human Relations Commission. Chair Carter further went through code, expanding on the HRC's charges and duties. Lastly he touched on the NC HRC calendar that provided a good rubric forward for the HRC.

Housing and health education were the two goals/topics outlined.

Lastly, Chairman Carter noted the slides from Mr. Troy's presentation to the board.

VII. Fair Housing Month

1. Statewide Fair Housing Symposium

Chair Carter shared the flyers for the statewide symposium, April 1st 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM focused on fair housing trends and best practices. Located in Durham and in partnership with the NC realtors association. There is a cost associated, Carter and George will ask about funding and reservation. Drew volunteered.

Another event, which is taking place tomorrow at 10:00 AM. The event is free and will include insights from experts in the field.

2. Local Fair Housing Events

- Karla Rusch at Legal Aid on App State's Campus was identified by Mayor Pro-Tempore George as an ideal person to partner with. Sean Morris was Interested in reaching out.
- Mention of making the Town of Boone's Fair Housing Page and information more accessible and circulated.
- Mr. Morris touched on the need for fostering a relationship with the local Public Housing Authority.

VIII. Commission Officers

1. Discussion of procedures, interest

Chair Carter further emphasized the need to recruit.

2. Election of Officers (dependent on quorum)

The board did not have a quorum, elections were not held.

IX. Work Session

1. Review HRC webpage

Link found: <https://www.townofboone.net/641/Human-Relations-Commission>

Chair Carter asked that the HRC work to compare our HRC page to other jurisdictions to try to improve and include what we like.

2. Establish an online complaint form

Compared the online complaint form to other Town's as well as the need to have the form available in both languages. Drew expressed willingness to translate materials into Spanish, as he has a degree in Spanish.

3. Next month's agenda

- Need to reach out to Karla.
- Come ready to piece the HRC page together.

4. Goals for the year

Conversations ensued around sponsoring films at the Appalachian Theatre, modeling a first friday around the cultural pockets of Town around Sustainability

Drew - "Our homework is to come to the next meeting with what our focus is" The board agreed.

X. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM after a motion from Chair Carter and a second by member Morris. The vote was unanimous.