

**Commission on Community Relations and Development**  
**August 9, 2022**  
**6:00pm**  
**Meeting Minutes**

I. Call to Order

Chair Terri Bradley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and asked for a volunteer to do the Invocation.

II. Invocation

Chretien Dumond

III. Roll Call (Members Present)

Edna Battle	Terri Bradley	Chretien Dumond
Tara Humphries	Washea Lancaster	Marcus Lewis
Stephen McFarland	Denise Todd	Roderick White
Councilmember Hiawatha Jones		
City Manager Timothy Salmon		
Asst. City Manager Matthew Livingston		

IV. Adoption of Agenda

- Chair Terri Bradley asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Member Stephen McFarland offered the motion and Member Edna Battle seconded. All were in favor and the agenda was adopted.

V. Old Business

A. Approval of meeting minutes (July 12, 2022)

Chair Terri Bradley asked for a motion to approve the July 12, 2022 meeting minutes. Member Washea Lancaster offered the motion and Member Stephen McFarland seconded. All were in favor and the meeting minutes were approved.

## VI. New Business

### A. Affordable Housing Commission Proposal to City Council Presentation by Matthew Whittle, Habitat for Humanity on behalf of Wayne Forward

Mr. Whittle shared his power point presentation and a draft resolution that he plans to present to City Council requesting that they stand up an official Affordable Housing Commission. He highlighted key functions of the proposed commission and the need for such a commission to exist. After his presentation, he welcomed input and feedback from the CCRD.

CCRD Members asked the following questions and/or provided the following input:

1. How will you ensure that the disadvantaged are at the table? (T. Humphries)

**Response from Mr. Whittle:** It would be up to City Council to appoint from the 3 respective LMI districts.

2. Why hasn't Wayne Forward worked with the CCRD in the past and combined forces? (W. Lancaster)

**Response from Mr. Whittle:** Wayne Forward has been working on the proposal since 2018. Mr. Whittle recalled past conversations about the CCRD splitting. He offered that the proposal is not a sidestep and added the CCRD has full-time community relations duties. He further discussed that the new commission would not have any say in how HUD dollars are spent and feels that the commission would be sharing in duties and responsibilities. Lastly, he added that the goal has always been to have a strategic plan for the City, which is the most important thing.

3. The proposal sounds and looks good but can't see how the two groups will not collide. (Councilmember Jones)

4. Recommendation made to work together first then reconsider a new board, with Wayne Forward attending CCRD meetings. (M. Lewis)

5. Mr. Whittle and/or Wayne Forward have not been visible at CCRD meetings to discuss this. Current by-laws state that the CCRD is an advisory group and the proposed commission's documents look to mimic CCRD by-laws and other sources. How will Council appoint? Documentation is very generalized. Not sure what's different. (T. Bradley)

6. Welcomes the idea of the experts advising the CCRD on affordable housing (D. Todd)

7. How long has Wayne Forward worked on this proposal? Don't understand the concerns. How much input could the CCRD put in? Don't see it as competition. Encouraged

Wayne Forward to proceed to City Council and to not delay the proposal after putting in 4 years of work on this. (S. McFarland)

8. Where is SJAFB with Affordable Housing? (R. White)

**Response:** City Manager weighed in that SJAFB is currently seeking affordable housing for active-duty military personnel.

9. Found a letter from Wayne Forward's website with proposals to the City from 2020. Inquired, what happened? (M. Lewis)

**Response:** Mr. Whittle explained that the group decided to step back and take a comprehensive approach.

Mr. Whittle concluded by emphasizing that he is not trying to create his own commission and would love to work together on the creation of the affordable housing strategic plan in which the City could be the lead. He asked, "how would it look to work together?" Councilmember Jones offered: come up with a plan and put it on an agenda. Mr. Whittle offered to postpone his proposal to council and would rather have the support of the CCRD.

#### VIII. Action Items (Requiring vote)

There were no action items.

#### VIII. Committee Member Reports, Comments, Recommendations

Member Roderick White shared of an Affordable Housing summit scheduled at the Crabtree Marriott in Raleigh on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>. He added that it is geared towards the military but the affordable housing information that will be shared will be valuable.

Member Stephen McFarland inquired about the tearing down of West Haven. Councilmember Jones offered to discuss this further with Mr. McFarland after the meeting.

Chair Terri Bradley thanked members for voting her in as Chair.

Member Tara Humphries shared that the Public Safety Officer of WCC has agreed to come speak at a CCRD meeting.

#### X. Adjournment

Chair Terri Bradley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Washea Lancaster offered the motion. Member Edna Battle seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**\*Minutes taken and prepared by Liaison Felecia Williams, MS/QP**