

**Minutes  
City of New Orleans  
Human Relations Commission  
4:15 PM Thursday, June 9, 2011  
Archdiocese of New Orleans  
1000 Howard Ave.**

**Present:** Aqeel Abdul-Salaam, Larry Bagneris Jr., Marc Behar, Michie Bissell, Rabbi Edward Cohn, Martin Gutierrez, Joe Halm, Rev. Douglas M. Haywood, Georgette Ioup, Stephany Lyman, Johnny Messinger, Jane Parker, Petrice Sams-Abiodun, Dawn Segura (Legal Counsel) Craig Stewart, Jenny Yanez.

**Absent:** Therese Badon, Beverly Greenwood, Rev. Phoebe Roaf, Jamie Tran.

**I. Call to Order by Chair Jane Parker at 4:25 p.m.**

- II. Review of the minutes from previous meeting** – Roaf motioned, Gutierrez seconded to approve the April 2011 minutes with spelling corrections as well as the May 2011 minutes with additions by Stephany Lyman. The board approved both amended minutes by an 11 - 0 vote.

**III. Executive Director's Report**

**a. May 16: Freedom Riders arrive in New Orleans.**

Bagneris said their arrival was very moving as the movement included white people as well as African Americans. He added that it was a valuable history lesson for the community.

**b. Meeting with Luz and Vanessa on 1<sup>st</sup> District Court and Day Laborers.**

Bagneris said that on Sept. 1 the district court will hold a once a month court session to hear wage theft cases. Bagneris said he inspected the day laborer sites recently, and the numbers were down. Gutierrez said the laborers are still in the community even though their numbers have declined over time.

**c. HRC Report**

Bagneris said he has taped two shows. The June show was with Joe Watkins, who is the MAC Co-Chair and Director of Para Transit RTA Act, and it included a piece on economic empowerment. The July show was a celebration of the 21 anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities.

**d. Opening of Civil Rights Museum: RACE: Are we so different?**

Bagneris said this public exhibit is incredible and is housed in the old U.S. Mint.

(over)

**e. Community meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> Ward, District E.**

Bagneris said he attended the meeting to talk with community members about what the HRC does. Bagneris encouraged all HRC members to make outreach to their respective community.

**f. Plessey Day 2011, honoring Mr. Plessey and the Citizens Committee.**

**g. Annual Juneteenth Celebration.**

Bagneris said it will be held on June 18 at the African American Museum.

**h. Household make up of Latino and Vietnamese population growth in the Metro New Orleans Area.**

Bagneris said the article send out by Chairperson Parker was an excellent way to see how the demographics of New Orleans has changed.

**IV. Remarks by the Chairperson Jane Parker**

**A. Review of May 12 Retreat and exercise to complete retreat**

The commission broke into its two teams from the retreat to identify action steps for the coming months.

**B. Introduction of new brochures and explanations of “outreach”**

Parker said there are several explanations/opportunities for members to conduct outreach such as a school information day or a neighborhood association meeting or even at a farmer’s market. She encouraged members to take advantage of these opportunities.

**C. Web site Update**

Bagneris and Parker said the HRC would like to put member photos, brief bios including district or community represented as well as an updated description of what the HRC is and what it does. Bagneris said he will be the main public contact. Halm will compile those photos and bios and work on updating the web site in the coming months.

**V. New Business -- None.**

**VI. Announcements**

- Bissell provided a treasurer’s report. Bissell said there is a \$587.21 balance in the HRC account. There is one outstanding check for \$400.00 to DocuMart for the HRC brochure printing.

**VII. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.**

*Respectfully submitted by Joe Halm, Secretary*