

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

DECEMBER 14, 1966

Members of the Community Relations Commission met for their organizational meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 1966, at 2:00 p.m. in City Hall. The following members were present:

Mr. Irving K. Kaler, Chairman
Mr. T. M. Alexander, Sr.
Mrs. Sara Baker
Miss Helen Bullard
Dr. Cleveland Dennard
Mr. Robert Dobbs
Mr. C. G. Ezzard
Mr. A. L. Feldman
Rev. Joseph L. Griggs
Mr. Joseph Haas
Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan
Mr. Al Kuettner
Mrs. Fred Patterson
Rabbi Jacob Rothschild
Mrs. Mary Stephens
Rev. Samuel Williams

Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. called the meeting to order and spoke briefly regarding this newly created Commission. He expressed the City's appreciation to the members of the Commission for their interest and willingness to serve and to all those who have furnished leadership and have worked to see the Community Relations Commission established. He reviewed the functions of the Commission as designated in the charter and charged the group as to their duties and responsibilities. He then introduced the Community Relations Commission Chairman, Mr. Irving Kaler, and turned the meeting over to him.

Mr. Kaler thanked Mayor Allen for himself and for his fellow members for the confidence shown in their appointments. He stated the members of the Commission recognized the challenge and accepted it. He also stated he felt the greatest resource of the city was its people and this Commission seeks to reserve and develop this resource so that Atlanta can have a force and economic climate to maintain its position of leadership. He then introduced Vice Mayor Sam Massell, Jr., who has been so instrumental in the creation of this Commission.

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Mr. Massell expressed his pleasure in seeing this Commission become a reality and told the group of the earlier meetings and committees preceding this Commission. He made the following recommendations for the Commission's consideration as their program is established:

1. Consideration of those individuals considered for membership on the Commission and those who have expressed interest in assisting in this work for utilization in advisory committees or similar capacities.
2. A mass meeting with representatives of the disadvantaged neighborhoods in an attempt to catalog the grievances in the community.
3. A conference or consulting session with the professional representatives of the local human relations groups to benefit from their experiences and ideas.
4. Inquire into the possibility of an Office of Economic Opportunity grant possibly in the amount of \$130,000 to establish a fair housing center in Atlanta.

Mr. John Field, Director of the Community Relations Service of the U. S. Conference of Mayors, spoke to the group regarding his experiences and observations of the activities and undertakings of other commissions around the country. He stated that these groups played various roles in each community including such things as performing advisory functions for the governing bodies, handling complaints and grievances, acting as mediators, and reviewing and monitoring the functions of government to insure democratic participation. He then reviewed some of the methods and techniques used by other groups. He told the members they must now decide what role this Commission is going to play in the community. The Commission must decide whether it is going to try to do the work itself or see that it is carried out by another group and to what extent the Commission will participate when other existing agencies can handle the problem. He stated the necessity is not to displace other agencies but to work with them.

The Commission members then proceeded with their business session. Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously passed the Commission agreed to follow Roberts Rules of Order for the conduct of all meetings.

The group next considered the election of officers of the Commission. Upon

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motions duly made, seconded and unanimously passed the following individuals were elected as officers:

Rev. Samuel Williams, First Vice Chairman
Miss Helen Bullard, Second Vice Chairman
Mrs. Fred Patterson, Secretary

In accordance with the ordinance, the above officers and the Chairman shall constitute the Executive Committee. Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously passed, it was agreed that the Executive Committee has and is authorized to act for and on behalf of the full Commission, subject to review of the Commission, between regularly scheduled meetings of the Commission.

A regular meeting date was discussed at this time and it was agreed that the Executive Committee be allowed to deliberate on the selection of the meeting date and time and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

On behalf of the Committee appointed to select the Executive Director, Rev. Samuel Williams then reported that the position had been advertised in the various news media and that seventeen applications were received. Interviews have been scheduled to begin on Tuesday, December 20. It was the suggestion of Rev. Williams (Chairman of the Committee) that the Commission discuss the type qualifications, characteristics and experience of the individual to fill this position. Various members gave their opinions on this subject and Mr. Feild and Mr. Clifton Henry of the Conference of Mayors also offered their suggestions based on their work with other commissions. It was generally agreed it would be necessary for the Commission to determine specifically what type program was to be conducted before selecting the individual to fill the position as different program emphases would require different qualifications and experience. In an effort to expedite this Miss Helen Bullard distributed a questionnaire regarding the function and program content of the Commission to each member. This questionnaire is to be returned to her for analysis and consolidation.

Mr. Kaler appointed the following temporary ad-hoc committees:

Program Committee (To make recommendations
to the Executive Committee meeting in January

and thereafter to the full Commission)

Miss Helen Bullard, Chairman
Mrs. Sara Baker
Dr. Cleveland Dennard
Mr. Robert Dobbs
Rev. Joseph L. Griggs
Mr. Lucien Oliver

Committee to Investigate Possibility of OEO Grant
(and grants from Foundations) (To make recommendations
to the Executive Committee meeting in January and
thereafter to the full Commission)

Mr. Al Kuettner, Chairman
Mr. T. M. Alexander, Sr.
Mr. Hamilton Douglas, Jr.
Mr. C. G. Ezzard
Mr. James O. Moore

Committee to make Recommendations on the
Establishment of Standing Committees (To make
recommendations to the Executive Committee
meeting in February and thereafter to the full
Commission)

Rabbi Jacob Rothschild, Chairman
Mr. A. L. Feldman
Mr. Joseph Haas
Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan
Mrs. Mary Stephens

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Miss) Faye Yarbrough
Acting Secretary