



**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
February 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
CITY HALL | Main Level Conference Room**

Members Present

Geoff Morrison, Chair
Carolyn Becker, Vice Chair
Margie Palazzolo, Secretary
Jennifer Bean
Michelle Cole
David Hartung
Paul Ward
Jeanne Webdell

Youth Advisory Commission:
Scarlet Adams

Council Liaison, Maggie Duwe
Staff Liaison, Russ Hawes

Other:
Jessica Winter, Administration

Members Absent

Nicole Goldkamp

YAC, Morigan Carey

I. Roll Call

Roll was taken by Margie Palazzolo with attendance reflected above.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Paul Ward and seconded by David Hartung to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 meeting with the change of the date of the next meeting on the agenda to March 14, 2023. All in favor, motion carried.

III. City Council Comments

Council Member Duwe said it is budget time and that has been the focus for Council.

IV. Chief Administrative Officer Comments

Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes shared that there will be a measure of 3% tax on recreational marijuana. He added that the legislation for recreational marijuana mirrors that for medical marijuana. There was discussion about possible locations for a dispensary with all the buffering around schools, daycares, and other areas.

V. Old Business

A. Approval of 2022 Annual Report

Margie started the conversation reflecting on the Bobbie Bostic event by sharing that she thought his perspective and his description of life in and out of prison was interesting, and how he talked about the school to prison pipeline made an impression. Jeanne requested that her name to be listed as Jeanne consistently throughout the report. She also would like a statement be added to the paragraph about the Achievement Award proposal.

Motion was made by David Hartung and seconded by Jennifer Bean to approve the 2022 Annual Report with the following changes: 1) that Jeanne's name be listed consistently throughout the report; and, 2) that the paragraph regarding the Achievement Award proposal be modified to say: "A Subcommittee was created to examine this proposal and, at their recommendation, Kirkwood social justice organizations were invited to showcase their programs and outreach at the Bobby Bostic Speaker Event. The committee is continuing to work on other ways to recognize groups." All in favor, motion carried.

The annual report will have to be presented to City Council and Geoff would like at least a few other Commissioners to attend the Council meeting with him. After a discussion about the date that would work best, Geoff said he would contact City Clerk Laurie Asche to request to present at the March 23 meeting.

B. Miscellaneous Updates

i. WVR Affordable Housing Project

Margie shared that they are revisiting fine-tuning their mission statement. Data from the City's housing project's completion date will be at the end of February and the findings from the data should be available near mid-March.

ii. One Author – One Kirkwood

Carolyn said the committee met on February 10. Mel Lambert from the Kirkwood Public Library shared programming updates that included two book clubs— Pandora's Book Club and Community for Understanding and Hope Book Group—will be reading "Night on the Living Rez" by author Morgan Talty before the speaker event on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7 p.m. at KPAC. Carolyn shared that on April 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the library there will be a presentation about Native Peoples and Cultures of Missouri presented by the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies. Additionally, Cahokia Mounds will be holding a presentation at the library at 10 a.m. on April 29, 2023 about the ancient city of Cahokia. KPAC is looking at will tying in native music into their music programming in May and will have native American art in their gallery in May. The KPAC has a glass case that may be used to promote the event through the display of native artifacts, the book, and other promotional items. The Buder Center has provided a connection to get a table at the Washington University Powwow on April 20, 2023. Press releases will be going out to media all over the County and City. Flyers are going to other county libraries and branches around town. An ad will run in the Webster-Kirkwood Times about the event. There will be Facebook sponsored posts and Carolyn suggested posting the event on the HRC Facebook page. The HRC was given a copy of the book from the library for everyone participating in the committee and Carolyn offered Commissioners to read before the event.

iii. Employment Initiative

Geoff said he recently spoke with the owners of Honey Bees Biscuits + Good Eats about the initiative and, while they were interested in and receptive to the program, they did not commit to applying for a window sticker.

Furthermore, Clayton Community Equity group reached out to Geoff asking about how the initiative worked. He asked if there were different processes for applying based on the size of the business and if the term “diverse abilities” was trademarked.

iv. MLK Jr. Celebration

Geoff said the MLK Jr. Celebration by the Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association was held virtually as an approximately 30-minute video posted on their website. Geoff said the third place winner of the 2022 essay contest, Jane Dubberke, did a great job reading her essay for the event.

v. Essay Contest

Seventy essays were received by the deadline. An additional five were received after the deadline on February 10 over the weekend. Geoff asked the Commissioners if they had any opinions about accepting the late essays. There was discussion about the parameters of the deadline and which if any of the late essays should be accepted.

Motion was made by Michelle Cole and seconded by Paul Ward to accept all late essay contest submissions. Seven in favor, one abstention, motion carried.

VI. **New Business**

A. Subcommittee report of Quarterly meeting with Chief Murphy on January 13

Geoff said the only issue he had with the report was that David was not there as listed on the report but Nicole did attend. Training for de-escalation was discussed as a topic the Department was educated on.

B. Select Subcommittee to prepare April Utility bill HRC insert

Michelle, Jen, and David volunteered to work on the April Utility bill HRC insert. She would like to add a QRC code linked to the Commission’s website, minimize the length of the verbiage, and include a picture of the current Commissioners. Geoff said the insert needs to be sent to Kathryn Hessel for print by March 15.

C. Annual Police Pancake Dinner on March 9 at KHS cafeteria

Geoff said the Police Department sent out their flyer for the Pancake Dinner to be held on March 9 from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. at the Kirkwood High School cafeteria. Meals are \$4 each and tickets can be purchased at the event.

D. Complaint about Parks and Recreation’s Spring/Summer brochure

A resident sent a complaint to Carolyn regarding the lack of diversity on the cover and the contents of Parks and Recreation Spring/Summer brochure. Geoff thought there should have been a larger section with more detail about how to donate to the Schupp Scholarship Fund and the Trivia Night fundraiser and what residents can do if they are unable to afford Parks & Recreation activities. Paul said any of the information included in the brochure should be filtered through the City’s Communication Manager. Maggie recommended a representative from the HRC give that feedback to the Parks Board but Geoff indicated there should be enough staff available to review the document before it goes to print. He added that he looked at the Park Board’s page on the City website and said there are no members names listed and nowhere in the brochure were email addresses

included for the Parks & Recreation Department. The resident additionally suggested a “Family Dance” rather than a “Daddy / Daughter Dance” as hosted by Kirkwood Parks and Recreation. There was discussion about possible process on awareness about inclusion. Jeanne mentioned how in the police reports outline the demographics for the makeup of the employees in the department. She wondered if there is a similar report for the rest of the City departments. It was suggested that a Subcommittee including Jen, David, Michelle, and Paul should meet with Parks & Rec Director, Kyle Henke, bi-annually before their Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter brochures go to print. Geoff has talked to the complainant and he will set-up a Subcommittee meeting with Kyle Henke to discuss the brochure concerns and Daddy Daughter Dance.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2023 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm, at the City Hall, Main Level Conference Room. Items for the next meeting will include picking the top five Essay Contest Entries as well as reviewing the April Utility Bill insert.

VIII. Adjourn

Motion was made by Michelle Cole and seconded by Carolyn Becker to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Margie Palazzolo, Secretary