



**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**CITY HALL | Main Level Conference Room**

**Members Present**

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

**Youth Advisory Commission:**  
Ryan Luby

**Council Liaison, Maggie Duwe**

**Staff Liaison, Russ Hawes**

**Other:**  
Jessica Winter, Administration

**Members Absent**

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Geoff Morrison, Chair

**YAC, Scarlet Adams**  
**YAC, Morigan Carey**

**I. Roll Call**

Roll was taken by Margie Palazzolo with attendance reflected above.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Carolyn Becker and seconded by Paul Ward to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2023 meeting with the revision to Section II correcting the spelling of Carolyn's name from Caroline. All in favor, motion carried.

**III. City Council Comments**

Council Member Duwe stated that there is a test on Kirkwood Road from Adams Avenue north to Essex Avenue reducing down to two lanes from four. The intention is to reduce the speed on Kirkwood Road, make it safer, and more walkable. The test will be for one month and resident and staff opinions are encouraged.

**IV. Chief Administrative Officer Comments**

Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes was absent.

**V. Old Business****A. Essay Contest***a) Pick/Rank Top Four Essays*

Each commissioner ranked the top four essay contest submissions. The winners are as follows: 1st place – Emma Hingle; 2nd place – Gus Lauberth; 3rd place – Arul Osburn; and, 4th place – Khadija Khan.

*b) Contest winners will receive their awards at a Council meeting to be determined*

Geoff heard from the Mayor that the recognition certificates and awards can be presented to the winners at the May 4 Council meeting. Geoff will be attending the meeting and other Commissioners are encouraged to go. He would ask Jessica to make certificates of recognition to go along with the award checks. A photo of the winners will need to be taken and given to Communications Manager Katherine Hessel so that it can be included in the May edition of "Eye on Kirkwood."

*c) Selected essays to be sent to KHS Principal*

Geoff had sent an email to all the Commissioners listing the essays that had content that was concerning to him and encouraged the other Commissioners to do the same. Carolyn responded that she felt all the essays with a spreadsheet categorizing the essays by topic should be submitted to the Superintendent and all building Principals. There was a lengthy discussion about whom the essays should be submitted to and sorted with a cover sheet identifying each category. Youth Advisory Commission Representative Ryan Luby added her perspective and agreed with Paul that the current principal would likely not act on any concerns presented to him in the essays and therefore should not receive the essays.

Motion was made by Carolyn Becker and seconded by Nicole Goldkamp to submit all essays to the Superintendent and all building Principals with a spreadsheet categorizing the essays by topic. All in favor, motion carried.

**B. Updates***a) One Author One Kirkwood*

Carolyn said she received an email from Mel Lambert from Kirkwood Public Library saying she had received news that Morgan Talty and his wife recently welcomed their first child but due to complications, he will not be able to attend the event in May as scheduled. He suggested a new target date in October. Mel will contact KPAC General Manager Liz Crabtree to see what is available in the suggested time frame and is working to get all activities related to the event moved since it will be closer to Indigenous

People's Day. Mel said they will continue with the programs they had scheduled to highlight awareness about Indigenous People.

Carolyn wanted to mention that she went to one of these events at the KPL hosted by the Buder Center, which is the Center for the American Indian Studies, a premier graduate degree scholarship program in social work committed to the education of American Indians and MSW students. The presenter was Eric Pinto, a Choctaw. She said there is a lot that still goes on in regards to in many of the social and cultural productions around giving a land acknowledgement before they begin. The example she read was from the Repertory Theater and it read: "It is important for us here to acknowledge that the land beneath us owes its vitality to generations who have come before us in the spirit of making erased and silenced histories visible. We acknowledge that we are standing on the ancestral and occupied lands of many native tribes that stewarded and cared for this land for centuries. The Illini, Osage, and Missouriiana Tribes are just a few of the peoples that we pay our respects to. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us here today and join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public in-person and virtual events."

Carolyn encouraged the other Commissioners to go to the other upcoming programs and shared that there is going to be a Pow Wow at Washington University on Saturday, April 22. She also mentioned that Cahokia Mounds is going to have a presentation at the Kirkwood Public Library on Saturday, April 29 at 10:00 a.m.

*b) WVR Affordable Housing*

Margie was unable to attend the last meeting and had no update.

*c) Heart-to-Heart Tutoring Program*

Jeanne said she spoke with Verneda Carrier from Heart-to-Heart who told her 20 students that attend Wednesday tutoring sessions at the Lemmie Building and 13 students sessions on Thursdays at Robinson Elementary. She will be attending a meeting with Dr. Jeremy Mapp and Dr. Angeline O'Neal-Hogrefe regarding space needs at Robinson.

Jeanne said Geoff was concerned about Heart-to-Heart's financial status and wanted to see if information could be posted on the HRC Facebook page to request donations. Verneda told Jeanne she did not know the status of their funds. She wanted to see if they could get help recruiting new tutors for the fall.

**C. Presentation of Annual Report to Council on March 16**

Margie shared that Jeanne and Paul attended the presentation of the Annual Report by Geoff to the City Council on March 16. Paul said Geoff did a wonderful job and it was well received. Each member of the Council thanked the HRC Commissioners for all the hard work they do.

**VI. New Business****A. Subcommittee Report of April 7 meeting with Chief Murphy**

Jeanne directed the Commissioners to look to the report included at the end of their packets. She pointed out that they still only have two female officers because there is a shortage of female candidates. She said there was one complaint about an officer—which was found to be valid—that had to do with his demeanor and tone of voice used in interactions with a male involved in a domestic disturbance. There were no taser or beanbag deployments. The Department successfully completed an audit with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), which has a very high standard. They have inquiries from St. Peters and St. Gerard Majella about hiring school Resource Officers. The Department is on top of training with three police supervisors recently completed advanced training.

**B. First Quarter Report**

Margie shared that Geoff wrote the First Quarter Report and asked if there were any additions, corrections, or omissions. David pointed out that end quotes were needed after Daddy-Daughter Dance.

Motion was made by Paul Ward and seconded by David Hartung to approve the First Quarter Report with the addition of the end quote after Daddy-Daughter Dance. All in favor, motion carried.

**C. Information Tables at the Farmers' Market in May**

Margie said that tables are reserved on May 6 and May 20 and two people are needed from 8:00 – 10:30 a.m. each day based on activity from last year. Geoff can set up both Saturdays and can work either one. Jennifer and Jeanne volunteered for May 20. David and Margie volunteered for May 6.

**D. Green Tree Booth Application**

Geoff filed an application for a Green Tree Booth. HRC will staff the booth on September 16 & 17.

**E. Miscellaneous**

Jeanne announced to the Commissioners that Harriet Patton had recently been named a "Remarkable Women Award" and would send a link to the

article. Maggie stated that it would be nice for the HRC to send a letter congratulating Harriett on her award.

Motion was made by David Hartung and seconded by Paul Ward to have Geoff compose the letter of congratulations to Harriet Patton. All in favor, motion carried.

**VII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2023 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm, at the City Hall, Main Level Conference Room. Items for the next meeting will include: the formation of a subcommittee for Fall Speaker event; Carbs and Guitars (Sat, June 10) Info table sign-up; and discuss meeting with School District Administrators.

**VIII. Adjourn**

Motion was made by Nicole Goldkamp and seconded by David Hartung to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

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Margie Palazzolo, Secretary