



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
August 8, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
CITY HALL | Main Level Conference Room

Members Present

Geoff Morrison, Chair
David Hartung, Vice Chair
Margie Palazzolo, Secretary
Carolyn Becker
Nicole Goldkamp
Paul Ward
Jeanne Webdell

Council Liaison, Maggie Duwe

Other:

Jessica Winter, Administration

Members Absent

Jennifer Bean
Michelle Cole

YAC, Scarlet Adams

Staff Liaison, Russ Hawes

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 Nicole Goldkamp to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2023 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

III. City Council Comments

Council Member Duwe said Kirkwood's council voted to make insurance for sewer lateral lines obligatory, and pays 75%, with the resident paying the remaining 25%, which can be a large expense. Kirkwood's program is a great resource and can be accessed by applying through the Building Commissioner's Office located on the lower level at City Hall.

IV. Chief Administrative Officer Comments

Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes was absent.

V. Old Business

A. Election of Secretary

Motion was made by Geoff Morrison and seconded by David Hartung to nominate Margie Palazzolo to serve another term as Secretary. All in favor, motion carried.

B. Updates**1. One Author – One Kirkwood**

Carolyn revealed that the Buder Center has recommended a new moderator for the event. Moreover, she mentioned that there will be various forms of advertising, book kits, and giveaways at St. Louis Community College. During the discussion between Geoff and Carolyn, they delved into the specifics of the upcoming event. Carolyn announced Brendan Slocum, a talented musician and author of three captivating mystery books, as the suggested author for next year. To further explore this possibility, Mel will be reaching out to him. However, no specific date has been decided yet. Additionally, David shared his optimism about securing the participation of the D.E.I. group from the Association of Corporate Counsel in St. Louis. Their interest in attending the event seems promising.

2. Information Tables

Geoff informed everyone that there will be a Back to School event at Meacham Memorial Park this Saturday from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. and encouraged them to drop by. He said that he and Jeanne are attending the event. Maggie spoke about Mrs. Shed, a Meacham Park resident who has done things like taking people to the polls to vote and keeping little kids, and who recently celebrated her 90th birthday at the Baptist church.

3. Bobby Bostic event on 9/7 at KPL

Geoff informed about upcoming Hot Dog Dayz and Bobby Bostic events, encouraging people to pre-register in order to get an idea of how many people will be attending.

C. Ordinance 12-66 Discussion

Geoff discussed a change to Ordinance 1266 which addresses discrimination complaints. He suggested that people should file complaints with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights. Under the proposed change, City staff and the City Attorney would handle investigations without involvement from the KHRC. David explained that the HRC can offer guidance on filing discrimination complaints under both the State Human Rights Act and the Kirkwood Discrimination Act. Russ suggested removing this section, but the KHRC believes it should remain to ensure equal treatment under the Kirkwood

Human Rights Act. The City Administrator will present a motion to the City Council for review, as the existing ordinance is unenforceable.

Motion was made by Geoff Morrison and seconded by Carolyn Becker to approve refer the proposed Ordinance 12-66 revisions as composed by David Hartung to the Chief Administrative Officer Russell Hawes for Council review. All in favor, motion carried.

D. Speaker Event Subcommittee Report

David contacted the executive director of Promo, Katy Erker-Lynch, who recently came back from maternity leave, to arrange a brief call next Tuesday to explore the idea of her being the event speaker. They will then have a more detailed conversation to discuss the event specifics. Geoff and David also talked about the urgency of finalizing plans for the event on Wednesday, November 8, so that they can begin promoting it in September and October.

E. Approval of Denis Hart Award Guidelines

Geoff announced improved guidelines for the Denis Hart Award. Changes include eliminating discrimination, expanding the time period, and broadening eligibility. The deadline is to be corrected to November 17, 2023. Jeanne and Nicole discussed criteria for selecting someone to meet the award guidelines. Living in Kirkwood is not required. Geoff will send the press release with corrections to Katherine Hessel for publication in the Kirkwood-Webster Times and on the Kirkwood website.

Motion was made by Jeanne Webdell and seconded by Nicole Goldkamp to approve the revised Denis Hart Award Guidelines as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

F. Approval of 2nd Quarter Report

Geoff stated that last month's proposed changes for the Second Quarter Report include correctly noting that the Denis Hart Award had no nominations for 2022.

Motion was made by Carolyn Becker and seconded by Margie Palazzolo to approve the Second Quarter Report as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

G. Kirkwood Municipal Court's ties with the St. Louis County Mental Health Court

Geoff has been trying to trying to get information about the ties between Kirkwood and the St. Louis County Mental Health Court, but has had difficulty connecting with the prosecutor's assistant being on medical leave. He hopes for more updates in September.

VI. New Business

A. Greentree Festival Booth Staffing

Geoff passed around a sign-up sheet to allow the Commissioners to staff the information booth at the Greentree Festival September 16 – 17.

B. Subcommittee Meeting with Clayton EECC

Geoff suggests a meet-up between a subcommittee and the Clayton Human Rights Commission at Pioneer Bakery, before the next meeting in September. The proposed time is either 9:30 or 10:00 on a weekday morning. Choosing Pioneer Bakery as the venue highlights their dedication to diversity and inclusion. They proudly display an employment initiative sticker on their door, symbolizing their support for team members with diverse-abilities. Carolyn, Nicole, David, and Paul have all stepped forward to join the subcommittee.

C. Miscellaneous Discussion

Geoff reminded the Commissioners to RSVP to the annual Boards and Commissions Volunteers' Reception. The reception is on Thursday, September 28 and will be held at Sunset 44.

Paul and his family are supporting the restoration of Olive Chapel AME Church. This historic church, located on the corner of Harrison and Monroe, is in need of some TLC. Paul, whose father once served as the pastor, is rallying the community to raise funds through a capital campaign. To kick things off, they are hosting two fun hot dog gatherings on Saturday, August 12 and Saturday, August 19. However, they won't stop there. Their goal is to ultimately raise \$50,000 to give the church a deserving makeover. The exterior needs a fresh coat of paint, as it has been 16 years since its last update. Additionally, the steeple, covered in wood shakes, is deteriorating and requires attention. Paul and his family are determined to find creative ways to engage the public, including a crowdfunding campaign, and they will share more details soon.

Jeanne mentioned that the Social Justice Coalition will be approaching Harriet Patton to discuss her plans for the Martin Luther King celebration. The coalition hopes to organize an in-person event and is seeking the support and participation of this commission. We are eager to hear Harriet's response and see if she is open to expanding the celebration. It's worth mentioning that Harriet used to use the celebration as a fundraiser, but now she has a saxophone player who brings in funds. Geoff suggested addressing this topic at the next Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association meeting, and Jeanne confirmed that someone from the coalition will be speaking with Harriet at that time. The details of the conversation are still unknown, but

Jeanne suggested that perhaps the HRC could incorporate more community groups through tabling or a similar concept.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2023 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm, at the City Hall, Main Level Conference Room. Items for the next meeting will include reviewing the draft of the Annual Report.

VIII. Adjourn

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

Margie Palazzolo, Secretary