



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
CITY HALL | Main Level Conference Room

Members Present

Geoff Morrison, Chair
David Hartung, Vice Chair
Nicole Goldkamp
Paul Ward
Jeanne Webdell

Council Liaison, Maggie Duwe

Other:

Jessica Winter, Administration

Members Absent

Margie Palazzolo, Secretary
Jennifer Bean
Carolyn Becker

Michelle Cole

YAC, Scarlet Adams

Staff Liaison, Russ Hawes

I. Roll Call

Roll was taken by Geoff with attendance reflected above.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by David and seconded by Paul to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2023 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

III. City Council Comments

Council Member Duwe provided updates on the revitalization of the Down by the Station building for the new Four Hands brewery and restaurant. Progress is underway, with current work aimed at upgrading utilities, which has resulted in a partial closure of Argonne Street. Geoff asked if there was an update regarding the attainable housing study. She said Planning & Development Services Director Jonathan Raiche is in charge of prioritizing the top three items from the study and will present them to Council in the near future.

IV. Chief Administrative Officer Comments

Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes was absent.

V. Old Business

A. Information Table at One Author-One Kirkwood Event on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Geoff and Carolyn discussed an important update prior to the meeting. Carolyn had a conversation with Mel Lambert about having information tables at the event. They decided to make information available for attendees to take,

but the tables will not be staffed, as they had been in previous events. Geoff said he was attending the event and asked that anyone wanting to attend also sign up.

B. Speaker Event on November 8, 2023

Katie Erker-Lynch, executive director of Promo, contacted the family of a transgender student from Kirkwood High School to join her on stage at the event but they were hesitant due to the current climate. Katie reached out to two transgender adults and the HRC will request \$150 honorariums from the City for each attendee for speaking.

David has contacted Jeanie, Carolyn, and Michelle to discuss contacting certain community groups from their outreach list and invited them to set up information tables at the event. Geoff mentioned that he would have discussed with Russ the possibility of making a request for funding had he been there. David asked Geoff if he drafted a press release for Webster-Kirkwood Times; Katherine Hessel would forward it to various platforms in order to promote the event.

Carolyn will confirm with KPAC how many tables are allowed at the event; invitations will be sent out in the next few weeks and confirmation is desired by mid-October. Jessica sent out invitations through Google form last year; Geoff offered to discuss creating a reservations page with library but it may not be necessary.

C. Kirkwood Municipal Court use of the St. Louis County Co-Occurring Disorder Court

Geoff discussed the St. Louis County co-occurring disorder Court at Kirkwood Municipal Court, requesting feedback on the distributed document. While the idea received some acknowledgement, it is unlikely to be widely used due to the need for individuals with mental health diagnoses to actively seek help. Additionally, the limited consequences in municipal court compared to felony cases diminish its impact. However, the resource is appreciated and may benefit those who are referred to it. It is important to note that participation is voluntary and limited resources pose a significant challenge.

D. Heart-to-Heart Tutoring Update

There was discussion on Heart-to-Heart Tutoring's performance, with Jeanne expressing enthusiasm for the potential enrollment of 57 students and 57 tutors. Jeanne also highlighted the upcoming orientation, open house, and tutor training sessions. Dr. O'Neal-Hogrefe from Robinson School will be

conducting the training. Jeanne clarified that the tutoring program is now under the umbrella of the LifeBridge program for financial management.

Geoff mentioned meeting an 83-year-old retired teacher who is part of the tutoring program. Geoff shared information about the locations and schedule of the tutoring sessions. He mentioned the cost involved and expressed interest in obtaining the latest information for the Greentree brochure. He volunteered to contact someone at Heart-to-Heart Tutoring for updated details.

E. WVR – Attainable Housing update

Geoff communicated with Ellen Wentz about a 20-minute PowerPoint presentation on the Kirkwood housing study. He also mentioned that the Kirkwood group working on this issue has changed its name to "Kirkwood for Everyone." During the upcoming meeting, Geoff proposed discussing these updates and potentially inviting them to present in either October or November. Geoff suggested inviting high school students from the Social Justice Coalition and GSA Group to speak at the next meeting in October, specifically addressing any concerns about the proposal. Geoff also recommended exploring ways to support fall events organized by this group, with a possible October meeting to coordinate these efforts. If the students are unable to participate, another option would be to hold the attainable housing presentation at a later meeting, extending it beyond two sessions.

VI. New Business

A. Bobby Bostic Book Presentation at KPL on September 7, 2023

David was satisfied with the meeting's attendance. Geoff gave a good introduction and offered to donate the book to the library after sharing it among readers. Approximately 25 people attended, with five accompanied by Bobby and his family, and 20 independently. Bobby sold twelve books at \$30 each.

B. Housing Discrimination complaint received on August 17 from F. Percich

Geoff received an email from Jessica regarding a discrimination complaint from Fran Percich relating to her medical assistance dog and purchasing a condo in Kirkwood. Fran had already invested money in measurements for new cabinets and had a contract. However, she was told her dog was too heavy according to the condo rules. Geoff advised Fran to file a complaint with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights and suggested she contact an attorney. Jeanne recommended contacting Arch City Defenders and Geoff replied that she had done that and was told that they only handle evictions for

those without resources and Fran has funds. She also mentioned the possibility of reaching out to the ACLU. Geoff said Fran had spoken with attorneys who specialized in other areas of law, but not disability matters. David suggested reaching out to a real estate lawyer while Geoff believed the condo bylaws were more relevant. Geoff assured that he remained in contact with Fran and the situation was unresolved.

C. Subcommittee Meeting with Clayton Community Equity Commission on August 24

Geoff announced a subcommittee meeting of the Clayton Community Equity Commission which was attended by David, Jeanne and Carolyn. The meeting took place at Pioneer Bakery and focused on changing policies in Clayton. They have already made efforts to have Arch City Defenders provide guidance on the selection of Clayton's Municipal Judge. Russ Hawes was also present at the meeting and there was an awkward moment when a member complained about a specific exhibit at the Magic House, but they encouraged her to give it another chance as inclusion is a major focus for the Magic House.

Jeanne expressed concern about the shortage of members on the Missouri Human Rights Commission, suggesting joining forces with Clayton Human Rights Commission to address this issue. Geoff proposed writing separate letters instead of co-authoring a letter with the CCEC as perhaps having greater effect than a joint letter; David reported that there were four out of nine commissioners but addressing this matter hasn't been a priority. Paul acknowledged that people might desire recognition for being involved, so Geoff volunteered to email the executive director to inquire about pending nominations.

D. Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association Meeting on August 28

Geoff addressed the group regarding the Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association meeting on 8/28. The 2019 event was an in-person celebration of Martin Luther King, while 2021-2022 were virtual due to COVID-19. Geoff proposed a subcommittee be formed to collaborate with Harriet Patton, the association president, and the social justice group.

There was discussion of a march on January 15 starting from City Hall to the Performing Arts Center. Ideas and logistical considerations, such as weather and timing, were discussed within the group. David voiced his support for the walk as he would be able to participate during the day with his kids, but Paul shared he would be working on that day as his boss required it.

E. Information table staffing at Police Department Open House on Saturday, October 7 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Police Open House on October 7 will have information tables lined up behind the Police Station. Geoff will be attending. Other Commissioners are welcome to attend, but not required to commit now. Nicole is unsure of availability; other commissioners may attend if they are available. It is an enjoyable experience for those who attend.

F. Greentree Booth Staffing

The Greentree Booth Staffing sheet was passed around to confirm details. Two parking passes were provided. Not everyone staffing the table requires a parking pass. Paul may need to switch spots with someone, as he won't be able to make it Sunday. Materials will be dropped off at David's house on Saturday morning, and the booth will remain in the same spot as last year. The weather forecast looks really nice for the weekend of the event.

Additionally, Geoff presented an updated HRC informational flyer, including information about the Dennis Hart Award nominations. Another flyer specifically for the Dennis Heart Commission was shared, courtesy of the Geoff's wife.

G. Subcommittee to meet with Chief Murphy on Monday, October 9 at 8 a.m.

There is a meeting scheduled with Chief Murphy on Monday, October 9 at 8:00 a.m. at the police station. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss quarterly concerns. Paul, Jeanne, Nicole, and Geoff will attend and Geoff will send an email reminder.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2023 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm, at the City Hall, Main Level Conference Room. Items for the next meeting will include: A) report of Chief's Meeting on October 9; B) Presentation by Kirkwood High School's Gender Sexuality Alliance and Social Justice Club and Coalition; and, C) Speaker Event planning

VIII. Adjourn

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

Margie Palazzolo, Secretary

