



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

January 10, 2017

6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Denis Hart.

Present:

Robert Boyd, Vice Chair
Morris Fletcher
Denis Hart, Chair
Ron Hodges
Jill Johnson
Judy Moticka
Amanda Sher, Secretary
William Winter

Absent:

Josh Lewis

City Council Liaison:

Council Member Bob Sears

Chief Administrative Officer: Russ Hawes

Other:

Mayor Tim Griffin
Kathie Valentine, Administration

Visitor Introductions:
Commission:

Visitors attending the meeting introduced themselves to the
Commission:
Nicholas Linan, Larry Long, Geoff Morrison, Jeannie Webdell

Roll Call

Roll call was taken with attendance reflected above.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by William Winter and seconded by Jill Johnson to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2016 meeting as amended. All in favor, motion carried.

Council Activities and Comments

Council Members Sears reported that the City was currently in its budgeting process and that the opening of the Fresh Thyme Market had been delayed due to the company's policy restricting the number of grand openings per year.

Chief Administrative Officer Comments

Russ Hawes reminded the Commission of the MLK, Jr. program scheduled on Monday, January 16 at Kirkwood High School. The program is sponsored by the City of Kirkwood, the Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association, as well as the Kirkwood School District.

Board and Commission Liaison

There was discussion on the role of the Council liaison. It was noted that although the liaison is not a member of the Commission, it is the role of the liaison to intercede when appropriate.

KHS Role with the HRC

Romona Miller had advised prior to the meeting that due to student illness they would be unable to attend.

Chief Jack Plummer – Policing

Chief Plummer attended the meeting and spoke on a possible reporting process that had been presented by the Kirkwood Policing Committee/Eliot Unitarian Chapel and the HRC. He requested that Commission Members forward any questions and/or comments they may have to Denis Hart. There was discussion on handling of complaints in the police department as well as diversity training provided to staff.

Strategic Plan Reports

A.1 – Amanda Sher continues to post information on the HRC Facebook page. Commission Members were asked to “like” the HRC page and forward to their “friends”.

A.2 – Judy Moticka noted the various locations where the Caretaker Alert Forms are available to the public and also requested they be made available at the three firehouses in the city as well. It is the intention of the HRC to find locations also in Meacham Park.

B.1 – Commissioners have been assigned as the contact person for various community-based organizations and will continue to collaborate with them.

B.3 – Invitations to other community-based organizations continue to be extended.

C.1 – It was noted that Jill Johnson and Judy Moticka had previously generated a list of community groups. They would like feedback from the Commission.

D.1 – The Commission is collaborating with other local human rights groups as well as the State of Missouri Commission on Human Rights. There was discussion on the City Clerk providing training for the Commission in March.

E.5 - Bob Boyd intends to forward the final copy of the annual report to the Commission. The report will also need to be presented to the City Council at an upcoming meeting.

H.2 – An off sight strategic planning session had been held January 7th. It is the intention of the Commission to approve the revised strategic plan at the February meeting.

Update on the Good Stop/Bad Stop Dramatization

Judy Moticka advised that a conversation still needs to take place with the school district prior to proceeding with the concept.

Disability Seminar Discussion

Bob Boyd advised that a disability seminar is still at the concept stage.

Essay Contest

By a vote of the Commission, “What is the most notable human rights issue of your generation and how does it affect your life” was chosen as the essay question. A slight revision to the contest rules was made. Beth von Behren will be asked to prepare a press release. Denis Hart noted that he intended to meet with Ursuline Academy staff to encourage participation the goal being to have all three Kirkwood High Schools participate.

HRC Awards

Three nominations were presented to the Commission. Motion was made by Judy Moticka and seconded by William Winter to vote on the nominations. The motion passed with Ron Hodges and William Winter opposing.

After the vote it was noted that the HRC Awards Guideline stipulated that the award be given to an individual which would eliminate the nomination for Kirkwood Presbyterian Church. As a result a new motion was made by Judy Moticka and seconded by Jill Johnson that they vote for

one of the two individuals nominated. The motion passed with Ron Hodges, William Winter and Morris Fletcher opposing.

By show of hands, five Commissioners voted for Rev. Barbara Gadon with one vote being made for Rev. Walter Schoedel. Two Commissioners abstained.

It was noted that any award nomination is subject to City Council approval.

At this time, motion was made by Bob Boyd and seconded by Denis Hart to revise the HRC Awards criteria. All in favor, motion carried.

Equity Walks

It was noted that five Commission Members had volunteered to do the equity walks.

Art Fair Contest

Morris Fletcher reported that he had obtained information regarding the last art fair in 2015 and that he had also contacted Beth von Behren who explained that the Kirkwood Arts Commission had been involved in the last contest. Prior to proceeding, he intends to contact those previously involved for their input.

Utility Insert

Motion was made by Bob Boyd and seconded by Amanda Sher to approve the utility insert as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Activity Report for 2016/Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association

William Winter distributed a copy of a report he had prepared on activities in 2016 in Meacham Park.

Matters Pending/To Be Scheduled

- Kirkwood High School's role with the HRC
- HRC Award Nominations
- HRC participation in Community Forums/Town Hall Meetings
- Disability Seminar Discussion
- Housing Authority/Meacham Park (requested by Ron Hodges)
- Guest speakers for 2017:

- Dr. Mike Gavin, Romona Miller, Assistant Principals and KHS Students
- Alisa Warren, Executive Director of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights
- Date to be determined - Loretta Bryant, Executive Director of the Midwest Braille Volunteers

Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the HRC will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Amanda Sher and seconded by Denis Hart to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Amanda Sher, Secretary