

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

March 14, 2017

6:30 p.m.

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

Present:

Absent:

Robert Boyd, Vice Chair

None

Morris Fletcher

Denis Hart, Chair

Ron Hodges

Jill Johnson

Josh Lewis

Judy Moticka

Amanda Sher, Secretary

William Winter

City Council Liaison:

Council Member Bob Sears - Absent

Chief Administrative Officer: Russ Hawes - Absent

Other:

Kathie Valentine, City of Kirkwood Administration Department

Visitor Introductions:

Visitors attending the meeting introduced themselves to the Commission: Larry Long, Michael Mancini, Steve Mennerick, Rev. Jeff Moore, Geoff Morrison, Jennifer Sisul, Jeannie Webdell

Roll Call

Roll call was taken with attendance reflected above.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Amanda Sher and seconded by William Winter to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2017 meeting as amended. All in favor, motion carried.

Strategic Plan Reports

C.2 – Ongoing. Currently initiated the annual Essay Contest

C.3 – Deferred to later in the meeting

E.7 – The 2016 HRC Annual Report was presented to the City Council. Denis Hart noted that the timeline dates in the Strategic Plan for E. 5, 6, 7 are for 2018.

F.1 – Alisa Warren, Executive Director, Missouri Commission on Human Rights, is scheduled to attend the April meeting. Denis Hart asked the Commission Members to e-mail him topics they would like Ms. Warren to address.

Morris Fletcher mentioned that there had been a news story regarding Maplewood and police calls leading to evictions. He stated that he would like to find out what Kirkwood's policy is in that regard. Jill Johnson reported that she had been contacted by Lary Mohl (Eliot Chapel Policing Committee) regarding their suggestion for a body camera policy for the Kirkwood Police Department and also training for School Resource Officers. She also advised that Empower Missouri would be holding telephone meetings and that she had information on the dates that she would like to share with the Commission. Denis Hart spoke on discussions he had with Chief Jack Plummer and advised that reports are sent to Jefferson City annually on traffic stops. Written records on oral complaints received by the department are kept and will be included in the quarterly reports from the Kirkwood Police Department to the HRC. Officers in the department receive diversity/de-escalation training. It was noted that it is not the role of the HRC to create policies for the Kirkwood Police Department.

H.4 – Denis Hart noted that the timeline dates in the Strategic Plan for H.2, 3 and 4 are for 2018.

I.2 – March, June, September and December should be changed to April, July, October, January

Achievement Gap Presentation (Rev. Jeff Moore, Webster Groves Christian Church)

Rev. Jeff Moore distributed a copy of the strategic plan for Kirkwood Area Every Child Promise which is a community effort regarding early childhood education but not a school district program. Their goal is to foster quality early childhood experiences for all children and families by providing supportive partnerships and financial resources. He noted that in the future they will need fundraising support and that is their intention to partner with all members of the community.

Equity Walks Update (Jennifer Sisul, Kirkwood R-7 School District)

Jennifer Sisul reported on the progress of the Equity Walks that the Kirkwood School District had recently organized and over half the HRC Commissioners participated. Thirty five percent

of the individuals trained to participate in the equity walks were non-Caucasian and there were 16 to 19 visits per school. Additional walks are planned for the following school year.

HRC Awards

Denis Hart, Bob Boyd and Amanda Sher had met in order to review the guideline for HRC awards. A copy of the revised guidelines was distributed at the meeting. Amanda Sher, Judy Moticka and Ron Hodges volunteered to be on the Award Subcommittee. After discussion, motion was made by Judy Moticka and seconded by Ron Hodges to approve the revisions to the HRC Awards Guidelines. William Winter opposed. The motion passed.

It was suggested that information on the award be available at the HRC booth at the Greentree Festival.

Essay Contest

Votes were tallied for the essay contest submissions.

1st place – Catherine Skubiz and Osman Noueiry (tie)

2nd place – Callie Mechelke

3rd place – Taylor Anderson

It was noted that some essays did not address the essay topic or meet the criteria.

Denis Hart stated that he intends to contact Ursuline Academy as no one from that school had submitted an essay.

Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the HRC will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjourn

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

Amanda Sher, Secretary

