

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**May 9, 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  
Morris Fletcher  
Denis Hart, Chair  
Ron Hodges  
Jill Johnson  
Josh Lewis  
Judy Moticka  
Amanda Sher, Secretary  
William Winter

None

**City Council Liaison:**

Council Member Bob Sears - Absent

**Chief Administrative Officer:**

Russ Hawes - Absent

**Other:**

Kathie Valentine, City of Kirkwood Administration Department  
Kirkwood Police Chief Jack Plummer

**Visitor Introductions:**

Commission:

Visitors attending the meeting introduced themselves to the

Jeannie Webdell, Lary Mohl

**Roll Call**

Roll call was taken with attendance reflected above.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by William Winter and seconded by Amanda Sher to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2017 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

**City of Kirkwood Search for Police Chief**

Denis Hart reported that he had met with Russ Hawes regarding the police chief search and that he had been told that the city had contracted with an employment consultant. Among the characteristics desired are personable, effective manager, progressive, someone who can look at all sides of an issue, and able to embrace diversity.

### **Visitor Comment**

Jeannie Webdell spoke of concerns she has regarding a controversial bill which would make suing for workplace and housing discrimination more difficult and asked the Commission if they would consider sending a letter to Governor Greitin. Denis Hart advised that state and national issues has not been the focus of the Commission with Amanda Sher adding that the Commission strives to stay away from political issues, and that they try to look at views on both sides of issues.

### **Mediation Agreement**

Denis Hart advised that he intends to ask the Commission to review the Mediation Agreement and city ordinances to ensure that the HRC Strategic Plan addresses its issues.

### **Strategic Plan Reports (April and May covered due to a major presentation and training session in April)**

A.1 – Information on the Black History and the Women’s History months were posted on the HRC Facebook page. Judy Moticka suggested posting titles of books relating to human rights each month with Morris Fletcher suggesting a book titled “Evicted” be included. Jill Johnson intends to share a link pertaining to the history of human rights that she found very helpful.

A.2 – The city’s Public Information Officer, Beth von Behren, has been contacted regarding preparing a press release for the HRC award and has asked that she be provided information 30 days prior to the due date of the nomination.

A.4 – Judy Moticka advised that she had contacted Russ Hawes to inquire if the city had received any Neighborhood Caretaker Alert forms. He intends to advise her if any were relative to the HRC. The locations where the forms can be found will be added to the HRC Facebook page.

B.1 – The Missouri Commission on Human Rights, Empower Missouri Roundtable, Metropolitan Congregations United, and We Can are some groups that Commission members have been in contact with. Jill Johnson and Morris Fletcher recommended that Metropolitan Congregations United and We Can be invited to attend a HRC meeting. Ron Hodges advised that due to lack of participation the Kirkwood Neighbors United group would no longer be meeting.

B.2 – William Winter reported that the Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association had given college scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each to seven students. Hot Dog Dayz will be held

again this summer at various Kirkwood parks. Several events are being planned for children in the Meacham Park neighborhood who are unable to attend summer camp.

B.3 – Denis Hart intends to invite Loretta Bryant of the Midwest Braille Volunteers to address the HRC.

C.1 – Two ad hoc committees (Disabilities and Aging and Art Exhibit 2018) have been approved by the Commission and will appear under Exhibit C of the strategic plan.

D.1 – Nothing new to report.

D.2 – The HRC received training at the April 2017 meeting on the Sunshine Law, Roberts Rules of Order, and Conflicts of Interest.

E.1 – Bob Boyd distributed a draft copy of the HRC first quarter report and asked the Commission to contact him with any revisions or additions.

Exhibit B.1 – Commissioners reviewed the list of organizations for collaboration. Morris Fletcher recommended that We Can be added.

G.1 – Denis Hart advised that the HRC Disability and Ageing ad hoc committee continues to meet and that they are working with Public Information Officer Beth von Behren to create a user friendly list of services and organizations.

J.4 - Although they are very interested in hosting community forums, the school district is still currently focused on the superintendent search. It is their intention to hold forums once time allows.

#### **Chief Jack Plummer, Kirkwood Police Department**

Chief Plummer attended the meeting to discuss the Kirkwood Police Department's First Quarter Report which included department demographics, complaints written and oral, diversity/de-escalation training, as well as a vehicle stop report. Of the four written complaints in the first quarter, two were unfounded, one exonerated, and one is pending.

Body cameras are being used by officers and the department is following state statutes regarding storage.

Jill Johnson intends to contact Chief Plummer in order to discuss diversity training.

Chief Plummer stated that he would like to have a police officer be assigned to attend all of the HRC meetings.

Chief Plummer spoke on hiring minorities and the importance of their advancement in the department.

Profiling numbers will be available in June.

Ron Hodges mentioned problems that school bus monitors are experiencing and asked if the police department could provide training. Chief Plummer advised that the request would need to be initiated by the school district.

### **Proposal for a Symposium on the Kirkwood Disabilities Survey**

Bob Boyd distributed a copy of his proposal for a disabilities symposium that included a tentative format. The proposed location for the event is Eliot Unitarian Chapel with Denis Hart serving as moderator. Several organizations have expressed an interest in participation.

Rev. Gadon has offered the use of the chapel free of charge. Bob Boyd intends to ask the City Council for \$2,000 to cover expenses. It is anticipated that a donation will be given to Eliot Unitarian Chapel for hosting.

Kirkwood city government staff will be approached for participation on the panel.

An ad hoc committee of Bob Boyd, Denis Hart, Josh Lewis, and Jill Johnson was formed to work on the symposium.

### **Art Exhibit**

Morris Fletcher stated that he had obtained information from the past Art Fair that was held in 2015 at Robinson School. Due to time constraints the school district is not interested in participating. He expressed his frustration with the Arts Commission who he had met with twice. When he first met with them he had been told that they would help but later he had been told that they did not have time other than judging. He had met with Russ Hawes who suggested they hold the essay contest every other year, which could help with time constraints, but that he was not in favor of doing that. At this time he felt it was more important for the Commission to spend their time focusing on the symposium.

Judy Moticka stated that she understood his frustration and offered help him contact art teachers with the hope that if they were contacted early enough, possibly in June or July, they would try to participate but that the Commission would have to do the work. It is anticipated that it will take a year to plan the art exhibit. An ad hoc committee of Morris Fletcher, Jill Johnson, and Judy Moticka was formed.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

The next meeting of the HRC will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Matters pending include:

- Reviewing the Mediation Agreement, HRC city ordinances, and strategic plan.
- Police Report - Profiling
- Greentree Update
- Disabilities Symposium
- Elections for Commission Officers
- HRC Award

**Adjourn**

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

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Amanda Sher, Secretary