

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**June 13, 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

**Visitor Introductions:**

Jeannie Webdell, Geoff Morrison, Gary Baldrige

**Roll Call**

Roll call was taken with attendance reflected above.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Morris Fletcher and seconded by William Winter to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2017 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

**Visitor Introductions**

Visitors attending introduced themselves.

## **Loretta Bryant, Midwestern Braille Volunteers**

Loretta Bryant had been invited to attend the meeting. She provided materials and spoke on the services Midwestern Braille Volunteers, a not-for-profit organization, provides. Their mission is to help blind people by transcribing a wide variety of materials into braille. When asked how the HRC could help the organization, Ms. Bryant stated by helping to get the word out regarding their services. Denis Hart offered to add a link to the organization from the HRC web page. There was also discussion on possibly placing information on utility bills.

## **Strategic Plan Reports**

### **A.3**

Bob Boyd suggested that the HRC brochure be revised to reflect projects the Commission is addressing. Morris Fletcher pointed out that he had been appointed responsibility for the brochure in the HRC Strategic Plan. He stated that he felt the graphics on the brochure should be improved. Bob Boyd offered to collaborate with Morris Fletcher and asked Commission Members to e-mail their recommendations to them. Morris Fletcher also mentioned that he felt the Citizen Action Center was cumbersome to access.

### **C.2**

William Winter spoke on a recent event he attended for youth, Pride in our Parks, in the Meacham Park neighborhood crafted by the Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association. Additional events are planned for the summer. Ron Hodges suggested that pictures of positive events in the Meacham Park neighborhood be placed in the newspaper. Amanda Sher intends to place announcements on the HRC Facebook page each Thursday. The next Hot Dog Dayz in the Park is scheduled on Friday, June 16 at Walker Park. Denis Hart reported that he had spoken with Gary Baldrige, Community Services Officer with the Kirkwood Police Department, who encouraged Commission Members to interact with the public attending the events. Commission Members discussed using the initials KHRC instead of HRC. Denis Hart intends to speak to CAO Russ Hawes regarding the proposed change. It was noted that city documents such as the Mediation Agreement and Resolutions/Ordinances refers to the Commission as the HRC.

### **C.3**

Amanda Sher reported that a press release had been sent regarding nominations for the Human Rights Commission Award with the deadline to nominate being June 23, 2017. It is anticipated that the winner of the award could be announced at the Greentree Festival. The

subcommittee (Amanda Sher, Judy Moticka, Ron Hodges) intends to bring the nominations to the Commission at the August 8 meeting.

At this time William Winter distributed a handout regarding Black Lives Matter and stated that he wanted some time to speak to the Commission about potential HRC Award nominee Rev. Barbara Gadon's connection to the movement. Denis Hart advised William Winter that he was out of order and that he could not speak to the Commission at this time with William Winter responding that it was his First Amendment Right to do so. Denis Hart stated that the HRC was there for the purpose of going through the items on the agenda, not specific nominees. (Nominations will close July 28, 2017 and be considered in September)

F.1

Jill Johnson reported that she has been networking through e-mail with Rev. Susan Sneed of the Metropolitan Congregational Church. Denis Hart advised that there are plans underway to revive the Human Rights Roundtable. Meetings will be scheduled, hopefully by year end, by co-chair Philip Weeks

J.4

No action.

### **Gary Baldrige, Community Services, Kirkwood Police Department**

Officer Baldrige stopped by the meeting to introduce himself. He intends to present the Quarterly Police Report to the Commission in July. Denis Hart stated that Chief Plummer had advised that Officer Baldrige would start attending HRC meetings.

### **Elections**

Motion was made by William Winter and seconded by Ron Hodges to elect Denis Hart as chair. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Hodges and seconded by Amanda Sher to elect Bob Boyd as Vice Chair. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by Josh Lewis and seconded by Ron Hodges to elect Amanda Sher as secretary. All in favor, motion carried.

## **Disability Symposium**

Bob Boyd provided an update on plans that are being made for the symposium.

- The symposium has been renamed and will be called the Abilities Symposium.
- Date of the event: October 28
- Location of event: Eliot Chapel
- Hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Rev. Gadon will serve as hostess.
- A plenary session will be held in the morning with a panel discussion.
- It is anticipated that member of the church will participate.
- They hope to address aging in place with Shepard's Center staff attending.
- A list is being compiled of organizations agreeing to attend.
- The City Council will be contacted with a request for funds for the event. They intend to provide continental breakfast and lunch. It was mentioned that area restaurants may make donations for the event.

## **2017 Middle School Art Exhibit/Contest**

Morris Fletcher provided a draft announcement for the 2017 Middle School Art Exhibit/Contest. The Kirkwood Public Library has agreed to partner with the HRC. Art work should be dropped off at the library on November 2 and will be displayed through January 6. Theme: The Beauty of Diversity and Inclusion in Kirkwood. He asked that either CAO Russ Hawes or the City Attorney review the Artist Registration Form. Winners will receive ribbons and/or certificates.

Judy Moticka intends to e-mail information regarding the art exhibit/contest to middle schools in July or August.

After discussion, motion was made by Amanda Sher and seconded by Judy Moticka to approve the draft announcement as well as the Artist Registration Form. All in favor, motion carried.

## **Greentree Festival**

There was discussion regarding the Greentree Festival and an HRC booth.

- Morris Fletcher provided a copy of the booth application for the festival.

- There was discussion on sharing a booth with the Kirkwood Police Department or possibly Kirkcare.
- An HRC banner should be ordered.

### **Other**

- The 2016 HRC Essay Contest winners will be invited to read their essays at the 2018 MLK event.
- Commission Members were asked to review the Mediation Agreement and at the August HRC meeting report any sections they believe need to be addressed. Such sections would be considered to be added to the HRC Strategic Plan.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

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

Matters pending include:

- Mediation Agreement Review and City HRC Ordinances to be reviewed in August
- Greentree Update
- Abilities/Aging in Place Website and Symposium
- Update on Meetings with the Shepard's Center
- HRC Award
- 2017 Middle School Art Exhibit/Contest

### **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

