

KIRKWOOD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

September 12, 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 Admin. Department

Visitor Introductions:

Geoff Morrison, Jeannie Webdell, Alexander Medeiros,
Matt Medeiros

Roll Call

Roll call was taken with attendance reflected above.

Visitors

Visitors who were present introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Judy Moticka and seconded by William Winter to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2017 meeting as amended. All in favor, motion carried.

Strategic Plan Reports

C.2 – William Winter reported that essay contest information would be provided at the Greentree Festival booth. Regarding the MLK event, he had spoken with Harriet Patton regarding the HRC and their participation at the event. Due to time constraints, Harriet did not know if there would be time for students to read their winning essays. Denis Hart advised that he had spoken to Jeffrey Blair who was enthusiastic in regard to the students reading their essays and also announced it at a MNIA meeting and Harriet was most agreeable. Ron Hodges advised that there would be a bike giveaway at the Meacham Park on September 30 and stated that he would like the HRC to have a table at the event.

C.3 – Amanda Sher reported that the award ad hoc committee had decided to have the entire commission vote on the KHRC award rather than the ad hoc committee making a recommendation. Copies of all the nominations had been included in the September 12 meeting packet. Commissioners had been informed that there would be a vote at the September meeting by paper ballot. Denis Hart read a list of reasons to have an award ad hoc committee, including insuring the KHRC guidelines are followed, print, webpage and Facebook announcements are timely to assisting in the election.

F.1 – Due to his participation in the planning for the upcoming symposium, Josh Lewis reported that he had not been in contact with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights; he intends to contact them in the future. Jill Johnson advised that because of the ongoing planning for the symposium, she had been in contact with many agencies and also Kirkwood businesses. She and Denis Hart had attended a meeting held in downtown St. Louis held by the Missouri Department of Labor which includes the Missouri Commission on Human Rights. Department of Labor staff were there strictly to listen to comments with no feedback given.

I.2 – Postponed to October. (Quarterly Police Report now due Jan-Apr-Jul-Oct)

Abilities Forum/Symposium

Bob Boyd updated the Commission on the upcoming Abilities Forum and provided a draft agenda for the symposium for the Commission to review.

- Most of the speakers have confirmed attendance.
- The number of people attending is unknown.
- Posters regarding the symposium are being hung in local businesses.

- A continental breakfast and light lunch will be served. After discussion regarding the difficulty getting food donated for the event, it was the consensus of the Commission to ask the City for funds so that it can be purchased. Visitor Geoff Morrison stated that he thought the city should pay for food for the event. It is the intention of Denis Hart and Bob Boyd to contact Russ Hawes regarding funds to purchase food.
- Possible topics for next year's symposium are "aging in place" and "the achievement gap".

Greentree Update

- A Greentree booth materials and equipment responsibility list was distributed.
- Morris Fletcher stated that he would e-mail a copy of the booth staffing schedule to the Commission.
- Morris Fletcher expressed concerns regarding the tent delivery and set up. It was suggested he contact the Parks and Recreation Department for details.

Art Exhibit

- A press release was sent out on September 5 by the Kirkwood Public Library.
- Information is being placed on the KHRC Facebook page as well as the library's Facebook page.
- Judy Moticka has contacted teachers at various schools in the area. She noted that the Nipher After School Art Club intends to participate and St. Peters Catholic School was also happy to receive information.
- A meeting with the jury members will be held prior to the art exhibit.
- Mayor Tim Griffin has agreed to present the award.

Kirkwood Human Rights Award

Amanda Sher announced the names of the nominees. William Winter asked if he could make a statement regarding the nominees and was told that it was not appropriate to do so. He stated that he did not understand why he was not being allowed to comment. Amanda Sher stated that it was not fair to single out one nominee. Judy Moticka asserted that it was assumed that the Commission Members had read the nomination materials prior to the meeting and had come to the meeting prepared to vote. Amanda Sher tallied the votes which were written on paper ballots with Harriet Patton receiving the most votes. William Winter stated that he would be meeting with Harriet Patton the following day and asked if he could inform her. He was instructed to not do that as the award has to be approved by the City Council. (The KHRC was informed later that no City Council approval was required. The Chairman will inform the winner by letter).

Ron Hodges spoke regarding Jack Plummer and asked the Commission if they would consider giving him some type of recognition. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission that a letter of appreciation be drafted for Jack Plummer. Ron Hodges offered to seek input from Dave Docter. In addition, the Commission would like all nominees to be made aware of their nomination for the award.

Other

- The Kirkwood R-7 Interim Superintendent, Michele Condon, intends to determine what their next steps will be regarding the achievement gap.
- Upcoming events mentioned:
 - September 17, Missouri History Museum, Civic Arts Presents “Race” by Jamie Pachino
 - September 20, Wednesday Night Lights, Kirkwood High School
 - September 24, Kirkwood Together, concert with Kim Massie
 - September 25, Meacham Park Celebration at the Rep.
- A question was raised regarding previous discussions on high school student(s) attending and/or participating in KHRC meetings. There was nothing new to report.
- It was the consensus of the Commission to purchase collared polo shirts with the KHRC logo. Information on sizes and pricing will be brought to the October meeting.

Matters Pending

- Mediation Agreement and City HRC Ordinances Review (to be completed at the October pre-Strategic Planning Session)
- Abilities Symposium 10-28
- KHRC Award Update
- 2017 Middle School Art Exhibit

Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting of the HRC will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjourn

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

Amanda Sher, Secretary