

**KIRKWOOD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**November 14, 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  
Josh Lewis  
Amanda Sher, Secretary  
William Winter

**Absent**

Judy Moticka

**City Council Liaison**

Council Member Bob Sears - Absent

**Chief Administrative Officer**

Russ Hawes

**Other**

Kathie Valentine, City of Kirkwood Admin. Department

**Visitor Introductions:**

Michele Condon, John Hoffmann, Bill Thayer, Geoff Morrison,  
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 October 10, 2017 meeting as amended. All in favor, motion carried.

**Chief Administrator Comments**

Russ Hawes commended the KHRC on the work they did organizing the Abilities Symposium and stated that he enjoyed presenting at the event.

## **Michele Condon, Interim Superintendent of Schools, R7 Achievement and Discipline**

Michele Condon spoke regarding the Task Force to Eliminate the Achievement Gap in the R7 School District. Handouts provided included a copy of her presentation materials and a copy of the Task Force for Equity Action Steps. The Commission again assured her of its willingness to support her initiatives in closing the Achievement and Discipline Gaps and become involved in her work.

### **Strategic Plan Reports**

A.2 – Public Information Officer Beth von Behren had recently distributed a Production Schedule for 2018 for the city website, E-Newsletters, Eye on Kirkwood, and Utility Billing Inserts. Amanda Sher will contact Beth regarding the February insert which has been reserved for the KHRC.

B.2 – It was noted that Harriet Patton had received the KHRC Award at a recent City Council meeting with a reception held at Kirkwood Station. Both were well attended. William Winter and Harriet Patton recently attended a Lion's Club meeting to request financial support for the children's programs being planned in Meacham Park in 2018. Ron Hodges advised that the Kirkwood United Methodist Church has scheduled a program entitled Witnessing White. If interested, individuals should register by November 19. The Moms of Meacham group will hold their annual Christmas party on December 17 at the Kirkwood Community Center. They appreciate any support they receive. Training for the KHRC had recently been provided by the City Clerk and City Attorney.

### **Abilities Symposium**

Bob Boyd reported that the Abilities Subcommittee would meet later in the week to review symposium surveys. They were pleased with the location of the symposium and they also learned a lot about planning that type of event. Bob Boyd thanked the Commission for their work.

### **Art Exhibit**

Sixteen pieces of art work was received with none of it being ready to hang. Morris Fletcher expressed frustration that the rules for the exhibit were not followed. Morris Fletcher also stressed that students need to follow the essay contest rules and if they don't their essays should not be considered.

### **MLK, Jr. Celebration**

Denis Hart reported that he had contacted Jeffrey Blair and Harriett Patton to request that two KHRC essay contest winners be invited to read their essays at the MLK, Jr. Celebration on January 15, 2018. They agreed and Amanda Sher will contact the essay contest winners to ask them if they would like to participate. The KHRC will have a table at the event; handouts regarding the Commission will be available.

### **Essay Contest**

Denis Hart requested that Commissioners send their essay topic(s) to him, and copy in Kathie Valentine, prior to the December meeting. Once received, he intends to compile a list of their topics and email them to the Commissioners prior to the December meeting. It was the consensus of the Commission to use a rubric for scoring purposes.

## **Mediation Agreement**

Denis Hart advised that he had contacted Chief Brian Murphy and had requested a meeting to discuss Section B. of the Mediation Agreement. Denis Hart, Ron Hodges, and Jill Johnson intend to participate in the meeting.

## **KHS and the Social Justice Club**

Denis Hart reported that he and Judy Moticka had set up a meeting with Mike Havener, KHS Principal, on December 9 to receive updates on a regular basis on social justice issues initiated by the school; they also expressed that the KHRC was interested in becoming involved with the KHS Social Justice Club, hopefully attending a meeting at the club's invitation with the hope of being a sounding board for the students.

## **Matters Pending**

- Essay Contest topic selection
- Review of the Mediation Agreement and Ordinance 9938

## **Other**

- Ron Hodges would like the Commission to be more engaged with the public.
- Denis Hart, Jill Johnson, and Morris Fletcher had recently attended a meeting of Metropolitan Congregations United where a presentation was made regarding the "Pipeline to Prison".
- Morris Fletcher complimented the staff of KHS for recognizing there are problems such as the achievement gap, forming a task force and coming up with action steps.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

- November 25, 2017  
Topic: Review of the Mediation Agreement and Ordinance 9938  
Location: Kirkwood Public Library
- December 12, 2017, Human Rights Commission meeting

## **Adjourn**

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

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Amanda Sher, Secretary