**KIRKWOOD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**November 13, 2018**

**6:30 p.m.**

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

**Present Absent**

Bob Boyd, Vice Chair Amanda Sher, Secretary

Denis Hart, Chair

Josh Lewis

Geoff Morrison

Judy Moticka

Ronda Wallace

William Winter

**Chief Administrative Officer** Russ Hawes

**Other**  Kathie Valentine, City of Kirkwood Admin. Department

**Visitors** Jeannie Webdell, Doug Riggs, Brandie Martine, Ann Carol

**Roll Call**

Roll call was taken with attendance reflected above.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Geoff Morrison and seconded by William Winter to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2018 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

**Chief Administrative Officer Comments**

Russ Hawes reported that none of the Caretaker Alert Forms that have been submitted to date had issues of bias or discrimination or other concerns for the Kirkwood Human Rights Commission. Copies of the forms have been forwarded to Judy Moticka.

The groundbreaking for the Performing Arts Center was held on November 8 with at least 125 in attendance. The city anticipates the center being a great addition that will help make downtown Kirkwood a destination place.

A decision has been made to discontinue the winter fireworks due to safety concerns and weather conditions at that time of the year.

**City Council Liaison Comments**

Council Member Maggie Duwe stated that she enjoyed the groundbreaking for the Performing Arts Center. She noted that she had also attended the Art Exhibit reception at the Kirkwood Public Library. She suggested that the Commission consider taping their event speakers and then place the recordings on the KHRC city webpage as well as their Facebook page.

**Visitor Introductions**

Denis Hart welcomed Jeannie Webdell who provided a flyer regarding an event being held at the Kirkwood United Methodist Church on November 18. Ray Boshara, from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, is scheduled to make a presentation entitled “Systemic Causes of the Wealth Gap between White and Black Families”.

**Diverse Abilities Subcommittee Update**

Brandie Martine, Doug Riggs and Ann Carol, members of the Diverse-Abilities Subcommittee, attended the meeting. They spoke regarding the 2016 Diverse-Abilities Survey Report and Recommendations, the Diverse-Abilities Window Sticker initiative, the draft letter that will be sent to businesses who participate, and ways the program can be promoted such as the video being made. Bob Boyd suggested they consider including an element of Sammy and how he felt welcomed at downtown businesses. The subcommittee members thanked the KHRC for their support.

**Strategic Plan Reports**

B.2 – The KHRC intends to invite the Social Justice Coalition to attend the December meeting and also intend to invite Moms Demand Action to the January meeting (see note under Upcoming Meetings).

D.3 – Due to budgetary issues, the Missouri Commission on Human Rights will not be holding a conference. If information becomes available of other programs offered that would enrich the KHRC’s understanding of social justice bias or discrimination issues, Commissioners were asked to share that information.

Exhibit A – Bob Boyd reported that a member of his church would like to form a new Bridges to Racial Understanding group and asked Commissioners to offer their support.

**Art Exhibit**

Judy Moticka reported that two art entries were received and are on display at the Kirkwood Public Library. Families of the participants had attended the reception. She noted that library staff is eager to continue holding the Art Exhibit and that they have ideas on ways to increase participation. Denis Hart offered to participate in the discussion with library staff. At this time William Winter motioned that they discontinue holding the Art Exhibit as he didn’t see a connection between the work of the KHRC and the Art Exhibit. Motion was seconded and tabled pending a meeting with the Kirkwood Library. Judy Moticka explained that all forms of art can express anything and the KHRC’s idea was for the exhibit to promote human rights. Denis Hart asked Judy Moticka to set up a meeting with library staff. Judy Moticka also spoke regarding the library’s 2019 One Book, One Kirkwood, explaining that they had asked for the Commission’s participation next year and that she would like to help lead that event. After discussion, it was the consensus of the KHRC to participate.

**Annual KHRC Forum**

Bob Boyd and Ronda Wallace spoke regarding the recent forum. Some things noted were:

* They had received positive comments regarding the event.
* There were not as many attendees as they would have liked.
* Ronda Wallace has a recording of the event which she intends to send to Public Information Officer Beth von Behren. The Commission would like the recording to be placed on the city’s KHRC webpage as well as their Facebook page.
* There was discussion on find a way to videotape all of their events.
* A thank you note should be sent to Representative Bruce Franks who spoke at the forum.
* The Commission should consider themes and/or ideas for next year’s forum. Suggested were disabilities and sexuality, as well as recognizable safe places for LGBT individuals.

**Essay Contest**

It is the intention of Judy Moticka to contact schools in January regarding the essay contest. A press release should be sent in January as well. The essay due day has been set for February 22, 2019.

**Police Report**

Denis Hart distributed a copy of a report (Independence Police Department Vehicle Stop Report Data) prepared by Don Love (associated with Empower Missouri). Mr. Love intends to prepare a similar report for the Kirkwood Police Department.

**Promoting the KHRC**

There was discussion regarding ways to promote the work of the KHRC with Bob Boyd offering to contact Public Information Officer Beth von Behren. It is the intention of the Commission to provide information to the public on a quarterly basis.

**Universal Design**

Josh Lewis asked Russ Hawes for an update on the status of their Universal Design proposal that had been presented to the City Council late summer. Russ Hawes advised that the City Council is interested in the proposal but they are currently focused on downtown Kirkwood, rezoning and items in the 2017 Strategic Plan. It is their intention to discuss Universal Design at a later time. Council Member Duwe agreed. Denis Hart stated that the subcommittee would work to provide examples of the benefits of universal design from other cities.

**2019 MLK Event**

It is the intention of the KHRC to have a table at next year’s MLK event. Details should be discussed at the December KHRC meeting.

**Upcoming Meetings**

The next meeting of the KHRC is scheduled to be held on December 11, 2018.

* Commissioners would like members of the Kirkwood Social Justice Coalition to attend the December meeting.
* Geoff Morrison intends to invite members of Moms Demand Action to attend the January meeting.
* Bob Boyd plans to contact Public Information officer Beth von Behren to the December meeting to discuss publicity.

**Adjourn**

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

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Amanda Sher, Secretary