**KIRKWOOD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**December 11, 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 Ronda Wallace

Josh Lewis

Geoff Morrison

Judy Moticka

William Winter

**Chief Administrative Officer** Russ Hawes

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

**Visitors** Jeannie Webdell, Emily Kuttenkuler, Peggy Neufeld, Karen Leonard

**Roll Call**

Roll call was taken by Bob Boyd with attendance reflected above.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Geoff Morrison and seconded by Judy Moticka to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2018 meeting as amended. All in favor, motion carried.

**City Council Liaison Comments**

Council Member Duwe advised that the Mayor hoped to soon fill the vacant position on the Commission and requested that, if they knew of anyone who was interested in serving, to forward their name(s) to either the Mayor or herself.

**Chief Administrative Officer Comments**

Russ Hawes reported that he had recently met with Michele Condon, Superintendent of the Kirkwood School District, and also Harriett Patton of the Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association regarding plans for the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration that is scheduled to be held on January 21 at 1:00 p.m. at the Kirkwood High School Keating Auditorium. Volunteers are needed for ushers at the event. Commissioners noted that they would like to have a table at the event. Geoff Morrison offered to contact Harriett Patton to request a table for the KHRC. He intends to bring their banner and also literature pertinent to the KHRC to the event.

**Visitor Introductions**

Denis Hart welcomed Jeannie Webdell. Emily Kuttenkuler, associated with the

Kirkwood United Church of Christ on Dougherty Ferry Road, introduced herself.

She mentioned that their church is an immigrant welcoming congregation. She was in

attendance at the meeting as she is interested in finding out more about the work of the

KHRC. Peggy Nuefeld and Karen Leonard, associated with Be Smart for Kids, were in

attendance to speak to the Commission regarding the organization.

**Be Smart for Kids (Peggy Nuefeld and Karen Leonard)**

Peggy Nuefeld and Karen Leonard presented information on the Be Smart for Kids organization. Some things noted were:

* They have a specific program that they use when teaching behaviors that can help to save lives.
* 4.6 million people have guns in their homes that are loaded and not locked.
* Guns are the second leading cause of children’s deaths with it being the number one cause of deaths in black children.
* They have a formal PowerPoint presentation that they use.
* They are not a political organization. They don’t speak regarding policy or law.
* They have a national website (BeSMARTforKids.org) and are always looking for volunteers.
* Be Smart for Kids has recently partnered with the Parkway School District and are also working with the Manchester Police Department.

**Strategic Plan Reports**

A.2 – No recommendations were made to revise the KRHC brochure at this time. Denis Hart suggested that they review their brochure at the next offsite Strategic Planning meeting. Geoff Morrison intends to update the KHRC flyer prior to the MLK event in January.

B.4 – A meeting had been held with Kirkwood Public Library staff regarding the Art Exhibit. There was discussion to tentatively expand the exhibit to include students grade 6 through 10. Judy Moticka intends to promote participation by contacting English and Social Studies teachers at the schools. Kirkwood Public Library staff also offered the help of an intern they intend to have at the library next summer who could look at means to distribute information via various types of social media. It is anticipated that the Art Exhibit will be held next October. William Winter spoke regarding the Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association and their Adopt-A-Family program. Families apply to be adopted and are then screened for eligibility. The association seeks funds for the program. An Adopt-A-Family event is scheduled on Saturday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m. at their satellite office located at 1001 S. Kirkwood Road.

C.1 – Regarding collaboration with other agencies that address human rights issues, Be Smart for Kids had been invited to the December KHRC meeting and then in January Moms Demand Action have been invited to make a presentation.

E. 4 – Bob Boyd intends to prepare a draft of the 2018 annual report for review by the Commission in January. It is anticipated that both Denis Hart and Bob Boyd will present the report to the City Council in March 2019.

G.1 – An offsite annual Strategic Plan review meeting is being planned at the Kirkwood Community Center. If space is available the Commission would like to schedule the meeting on January 12 at 1:00 p.m. Bob Boyd intends to contact staff at the community center regarding meeting room availability.

**Essay Contest**

There was discussion regarding the essay question/prompt. A concern was expressed by William Winter regarding the length of the prompt with Judy Moticka explaining that the prompt is required to give students direction.

**2019 MLK Event**

See Chief Administrator Officer report in minutes.

**KHRC Publicity and Promotion**

An excellent and comprehensive handout was distributed (Tip Sheet for Event/Program Publicity and Communications) that had been prepared by Public Information Officer Beth von Behren.

**Universal Design**

Josh Lewis advised that the KHRC Diverse-Abilities Subcommittee will continue to do research and gather information per their Strategic Plan direction (F.1 & 2). He also noted that any recommendation the Diverse-Abilities Subcommittee decides on must naturally be presented to the KHRC for their approval prior to any action.

Denis Hart informed the Commission that the KHRC Diverse-Abilities Subcommittee can continue to do research but that they have no authority to make decisions.

**Upcoming Meetings**

The next meeting of the KHRC is scheduled to be held on January 8, 2019. It was noted that Moms Demand Action have been invited to attend and make a presentation.

**Other**

Denis Hart asked Judy Moticka to distribute copies of the Caretaker Alert Forms to the Commission for review and then forward to Kathie Valentine for the file.

**Adjourn**

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

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Amanda Sher, Secretary