

KIRKWOOD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
AMENDED Minutes
March 10, 2020
6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Amanda Sher.

Present

Bob Boyd, Vice Chair
Verneda Carrier
Josh Lewis
Judy Moticka, Secretary
Geoff Morrison
Amanda Sher, Chair
Jeannie Webdell

Absent

Paul Ward
William Winter

Council Liaison

Maggie Duwe

Staff Liaison

Russ Hawes

Other

Kathie Valentine, City of Kirkwood

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Judy Moticka with attendance reflected above.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Judy Moticka and seconded by Josh Lewis to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2020 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

City Council Comments

Council Member Duwe reported that the recommended zoning changes were being voted for first consideration by the City Council at their next meeting

Chief Administrative Officer Comments

Nothing to report.

Chair Remarks

- Amanda Sher noted that due to her illness the KHRC Annual Report was not given to the City Council and that she had spoken to the City Clerk regarding it being rescheduled. At this time a date has not been chosen by the Mayor.
- Specific line items have been added to the KHRC calendar. It is the intention of the Commission to redefine themselves and interact with the community in order to “see what they think”.
- Amanda Sher advised that she does not intend to be reappointed to the Commission in 2021 when her term expires. Additionally, William Winter’s current term expires in June and he is not seeking reappointment. Josh Lewis’s term expires this year in June as well. It was noted that Commissioners are able to stay on the Commission until a new appointment is made. Commissioners were asked to forward recommendations for replacements to Amanda Sher. Antona Smith, Kathy Harris and Lary Mohl were mentioned, as well as Susan Mason and Dawn Buckley who had nominated the last KHRC Award recipient. Bob Boyd intends to contact Antona Smith, Kathy Harris and Lary Mohl regarding serving on the KHRC.

Essay Contest

Commissioners provided their top picks for the essay contest. William Winter was not in attendance but had given Kathie Valentine his tops picks which were forwarded to the Chair. The top picks were essays numbered 5, 13, 40, 54, 61, 71 and 84. Commissioners were asked to reread those essays and bring their top 5 selections to the April meeting. Amanda Sher and Judy Moticka will not be able to attend the April meeting. In their absence Bob Boyd was asked to tally the essays.

Community Events Update

Geoff Morrison reported that he has looked into the "source of income" protection ordinances of Richmond Heights and Webster Groves which were cited in the January 30th presentation (at Kirkwood High) by Washington University's Michelle Witthaus in her presentation on the history of housing segregation in the St. Louis Area. He contacted the Richmond Heights Asst. City Manager Pamela Hylton who provided a copy of its housing ordinances. She informed him that Richmond Heights does not have a "source of income" protection ordinance that would protect a tenant with a housing opportunity (section 8) voucher from being discriminated against by a landlord. He also contacted the Webster Groves Director of Planning and Development Mara Perry who provided a copy of the ordinance passed in October of 2019 which purports to provide such protection. Director Perry Informed Morrison that the ordinance does not require that landlords apply for St. Louis County Housing Authority certification which is a prerequisite for payment by voucher. Director Perry's office refers its investigations of complaints that the ordinance has been violated to the Missouri Human Rights Commission.

- Judy Moticka advised the Commission that the 1 Author, 1 Book event was scheduled to be held at St. Louis Community College (Meramec) on April 22 and that the KHRC

would have a table at the event. Information has been posted on the KHRC Facebook page. Emma DeLooze-Klein, Director of Adult & Community Services, at the Kirkwood Public Library has resigned. Judy Moticka intends to speak to Ms. DeLooze-Klein and the new library director, Christa Van Herreweghe, regarding the KHRC Art Exhibit. The library's Homeless Task Force is not up and running yet, but it is believed it will be a fantastic addition to the community. Bob Boyd, Geoff Morrison, Judy Moticka, and Verneda Carrier volunteered staff the table at the 1 Author, 1 Book event.

Community Concern Ideas

- It was suggested that Commissioners make a list of their top 5 concerns for discussion at an upcoming meeting.
- Community meetings were discussed with there being a consensus to search for and attend meetings that are already ongoing such as the KHS breakfast meetings and PTO meetings. It was noted that they need to go beyond the school district.
- A concern was noted regarding accessibility at the SBD office. Amanda Sher intends to contact the director.

Agenda Items

- Bring a list of community meetings that they could attend.
- PTO (contact PTO presidents over the summer months).
- Contact the SBD regarding upcoming events at the Farmer's Market.
- Amanda Sher intends to e-mail Commissioners 2 weeks prior to the April meeting items they should be working on.
- Denis Hart Award (information about the award and requests for nominations should be sent to the Webster-Kirkwood Times, press releases should be sent as well). Amanda Sher intends to contact the city's Public Information Officer.
- There was discussion regarding moving forward with the work of the Diverse-Abilities Subcommittee and the need to meet with Peg Weathers at the Chamber. Bob Boyd mentioned a recent conversation he had with Doug Riggs where he reassured him that the former subcommittee members would be pleased when the Commission moves forward with the recognition of businesses. It is the intention of Bob Boyd and Verneda Carrier to contact Peg Weathers to request a meeting in order to discuss the initiative.
- Prepare a plan of action in order to move forward with the recognition of business to present to the City Council at a work session.
- Letter to the Editor regarding topics the students brought up in their essays. Arrange a meeting with the new school superintendent.

Upcoming Meetings

- The next regular meeting of the KHRC is scheduled to be held on April 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., Kirkwood City Hall, Main Level Conference Room.

Adjourn

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

Judy Moticka, Secretary