**KIRKWOOD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**January 12, 2021**

**6:30 p.m.**

Under Section 610.015 of the Missouri Sunshine Law provides that members of the Human Rights Commission who are not physically present are able to participate and vote on all matters when an emergency exists and the nature of the emergency is stated in the minutes.

The U.S., and the World, is in a state of emergency due to the Coronavirus--Covid-19. The Missouri Governor and the County Executive directed all citizens to limit meetings and gatherings to a few people to avoid the spread of the Coronavirus. Therefore, members of the Human Rights Commission can elect to participate in virtual meetings so that they are compliant with such Orders and for the public health and safety of each other and the general public.

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

**Present Absent**

Carolyn Becker Paul Ward

Bob Boyd

Michelle Cole

Judy Moticka, Vice Chair

Geoff Morrison, Secretary

Margie Palazollo

Amanda Sher, Chair

Jeannie Webdell

**Council Liaison** Maggie Duwe

**Staff Liaison** Russ Hawes

**Other** Kim Sansegraw, City of Kirkwood

**Roll Call**

Roll call was taken by Geoff Morrison with attendance reflected above.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Geoff Morrison and seconded by Carolyn Becker to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

**City Council Comments**

Council Member Duwe spoke on recent and current proposed legislation brought before Council.

**Chief Administrative Officer Comments**

Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes announced that Kirkwood Police Department has arrested a juvenile involved in the graffiti incident at the Kirkwood Schools.

Geoff questioned if there would still be a march from Kirkwood High School to the Police Department. Visitor Monica McArthur mentioned there would be a demonstration at 7:00 a.m. Wednesday morning and Judy stated there was a march scheduled after school to the Police Department.

Amanda mentioned she is drafting an email to Kirkwood School District Superintendent Dr. Ulrich and reviewed some of the items she will be including. After discussion, it was the consensus to try to meet with the Superintendent and/or Assistant Superintendents on a regular basis.

There was further discussion regarding the graffiti incident. Some of the items discussed were as follows:

* How the suspect might be charged
* An interview with a Kirkwood police officer from the Kirkwood Call
* How there cannot be any pre-conceived judgment or bias

**Chair Remarks**

Amanda reported the Denis Hart Award of Excellence was presented to Roberta McWoods on the front steps of City Hall on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 and Ms. McWoods was acknowledged at the City Council meeting on January 7, 2021.

Amanda will email Mayor Griffin to request the acknowledgement at a future City Council meeting for the previous year’s essay winners.

Amanda suggested having a Zoom meeting to discuss the agenda for the coming year.

**Meeting Updates**

Amanda, Geoff, Paul and Jeannie attended the quarterly meeting with Chief Murphy. There were no complaints this quarter.

Amanda, Judy and Geoff met with Kyle Henke from the Parks and Recreation Department to discuss concerns about the Kids Night Out Event sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department not being inclusive.

Geoff reported there are programs sponsored by the department called PARC (Participation at a Reduced Cost) and the Shupe Scholarship Program that the department will be hosting a virtual trivia night on January 29, 2021. Geoff recommended meeting with the department again to expand upon their conversation.

Amanda suggested sending an email to other boards and commissions about getting involved in supporting a Virtual Trivia Night this spring to raise funds for the scholarship program.

**New Business**

Amanda reviewed the KHRC calendar for this year. Amanda reminded the Commissioners that this calendar assumes a lot and understanding that some of the events may be postponed or not held at all.

**Next Meeting**

Amanda stated for the February meeting, the Commissioners will review and vote on the annual report and there will be a discussion on how to evaluate the essays.

The next regular meeting of the KHRC is scheduled to be held on February 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom.

**Adjourn**

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

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Geoff Morrison, Secretary