

**KIRKWOOD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**  
**June 8, 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 can 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. Therefore, members of the Human Rights Commission can elect to participate in this meeting electronically 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 Judy Moticka, Vice Chair.

**Present**

Carolyn Becker  
Bob Boyd  
Michelle Cole  
Judy Moticka, Vice Chair  
Geoff Morrison, Chair  
Margie Palazollo, Secretary  
Paul Ward  
Jeannie Webdell  
Nicole Goldkamp

**Absent**

**Council Liaison**

Maggie Duwe

**Staff Liaison**

Russ Hawes - Absent

**Other**

Mary Claire Sorensen, Administration

Judy Moticka served as acting Chair and called the meeting to order. Judy welcomed and introduced Nicole Goldkamp, the newest member to the Human Rights Commission. Nicole stated she is excited to be a part of the Commission and looking forward to engaging with everyone.

**Roll Call**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Paul Ward and seconded by Geoff Morrison to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2021 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

**City Council Comments**

Council Member Duwe reported that Vision Zero work goes on and there have been several meetings with Alta. As soon as the Human Rights Commission can get involved with Vision Zero and/or the Youth Commission, Maggie will let everyone know. Maggie told the

Commission if they knew of anyone who might be interested in submitting an application to be on the Youth Commission, there are three open seats. The applicants must be Kirkwood residents and in High School.

Maggie indicated that the City Council will soon meet in person starting in July. All Council Members and staff will be in person. The public will still join via zoom. Maggie is not aware of how soon boards and commissions will be meeting in person but will update that information as she becomes aware.

### **Chief Administrative Officer Comments**

Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes was on vacation.

### **Visitor Introduction and Comments**

Nothing to report.

### **Election of New Officers**

The elections of new officers for the Commission was called.

Motion was made by Judy Moticka and seconded by Paul Ward to elect Geoff Morrison as Chair. No other nominations were made. By acclamation, motion is carried.

Motion was made by Carolyn Becker and seconded by Michelle Cole to elect Judy Moticka as Vice Chair. No other nominations were made. By acclamation, motion is carried.

Motion was made by Geoff Morrison and seconded by Judy Moticka to elect Margie Palazollo as Secretary. No other nominations were made. By acclamation, motion carried.

### **Old Business**

#### **a. Employment Initiative**

Bob Boyd has a complete summary of what has been done last year regarding this Initiative. Geoff asked about the initial letter/email that had been sent to all employers in the Business District and Bob reported that there have been no responses. The original plan of the Initiative was to include businesses that were hospitable to people with diverse abilities as customers as well as businesses that employ and train people with diverse abilities. Bob showed the Commission the sticker that would be given to Employers to display at their businesses.

Bob has a copy of the Employment Initiative that had previously been approved by the Human Rights Commission on October 8, 2019. Bob reviews the highlights of the original Initiative and a summary will be distributed to the Commission for review.

Geoff pointed out Pioneer Bakery and Sammy Soaps would be qualified recipients of displaying the diverse abilities sticker. A review of the letter to businesses will be done at the next meeting. It is important for the letter to include both employing and supporting customers of diverse abilities for businesses. Paul Ward suggests that work needs to be done to get the message out to the general public regarding this

Employment Initiative. There needs to be more visibility around the Initiative to get it on the minds of the patrons/customers to these businesses.

Geoff proposes that a subcommittee be created to work on the proposal, the sticker and a way to go forward. Bob Boyd, Nicole Goldkamp, Paul Ward and Carolyn Becker will make up this subcommittee.

**b. Essay Contest Winners recognition at future Council Meeting**

Council Member Duwe indicated that the Commission needs to talk with Russ Hawes about when the winners of the Essay Contest can come in person to be presented with the awards. Judy indicated that the winners of the Essay Contest are students going into their senior year so it can possibly be moved to September to accommodate anyone who wants to come to ceremony.

**New Business**

**a. Meeting Questions for School District Superintendent**

The next meeting with the Superintendent will be in June. Nicole Goldkamp expressed interest in being a part of this committee. Judy will reach out to Dr. Ulrich's assistant to get some available dates for the meeting. If anyone has any questions to be addressed at the meeting, they are instructed to send them via email to Judy

**b. Fall Art Exhibit in Conjunction with KPL**

Judy heard back from the Library who is excited to be a part of the Human Rights Art Exhibit again this year. There is a need for volunteers to help coordinate this event with the Library. Judy suggested that the Commission votes on the prompt for the Art Exhibit at the August meeting.

**c. Fall Speaker's Forum**

Geoff asks Commissioners to think about who they might want to invite to speak by the July meeting. The Speaker event would be on a Thursday night in October.

**Housekeeping Items:**

Geoff reminds the Commission about Hot Dog Daze event schedule in June.

Geoff reminds the Commission about the schedule for the Human Rights Commission table at the Kirkwood Farmer's Market. All members are OK with a handout for the public that includes their personal emails.

Geoff will ask Laurie Asche about reviewing the Sunshine Law rules and regulations to the Commission and especially the newer members.

The meeting with the Chief of Police will take place before the July meeting. Geoff will report on that at the July meeting.

**Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the KHRC is scheduled to be held on July 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

**Adjourn**

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

  
Margie Palazollo, Secretary