

KIRKWOOD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**Minutes
August 10th, 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 Geoff Morrison, Chair.

Present

Carolyn Becker
Bob Boyd
Michelle Cole
Judy Moticka, Vice Chair
Geoff Morrison, Chair
Margie Palazzolo, Secretary
Paul Ward – arrived at 7pm
Jeannie Webdell
Nicole Goldkamp

Absent

Council Liaison

Maggie Duwe

Staff Liaison

Russ Hawes

Other

Mary Claire Sorensen, Administration

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Margie Palazzolo with attendance reflected above.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Nicole Goldkamp and seconded by Carolyn Becker to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2021 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

City Council Comments

Council Member Duwe reported that the opening of the KPAC was amazing and the show, Always Patsy Kline, is wonderful. The building is awesome, and a large part of the credit goes to Russ and Rick Duplissie and everyone else who contributed to it. The public hearing for Harmony Homes will be August 26th via zoom.

Chief Administrative Officer Comments

Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes echoed Maggie's sentiment about the KPAC and that everything was positive. The City is in the process of adding more accessible parking. There is an ordinance that will be brought to Council in a couple of weeks to provide 6 additional spaces, making a total of 12 permanent accessible parking spaces in the front of the building.

Visitor Welcome

None

Old Business

Employment Initiative:

The stickers will be available for pickup tomorrow (Wednesday). Geoff would like to get them to the three businesses already identified as soon as possible. Geoff will get Donna Poe copies of the stickers and applications to send out to businesses. Michelle Cole's husband filled out an application on behalf of the St. Louis Community College. He is waiting for approval on this from his supervisor. Bob would like to have a letter to go with the sticker for the businesses displaying the sticker. Geoff would like a couple of Commissioners to go to the businesses to present them the stickers and Bob has volunteered to do this.

Speaker Update:

The event is scheduled to take place at KPAC on November 10th from 7-8:30. We have a commitment from the Missouri Commission on Human Rights to provide a speaker. Geoff asked them to talk about when and how the Missouri Commission on Human Rights provides assistants to citizens whose human rights have been violated. There will be chairs and tables in the space and Geoff will make sure we have enough to accommodate any group who will be coming. The event is 90 days from today. Bob asked about a backup plan in case COVID causes the event to be cancelled. Nicole and Judy agreed this would be necessary and all decided if COVID became an issue the event should be postponed instead of having a video meeting.

Art Exhibit Update:

Judy reported Geoff and she met with the Kirkwood Public Library. The Art Exhibit is scheduled for the beginning of November. There is hope this does not get cancelled or postponed due to COVID. Judy will email the art teachers at the schools after Labor Day and the Library does a lot of the promotion for this event. The Library has a grant to use toward this event for art materials and classes, etc. Judy reported \$50 will be used from the HRC budget toward gift cards for the event.

Green Tree Staffing

Bob offered to fill the shift for Sunday morning. Nicole has offered two times she can be present and has decent availability on that Sunday. Geoff will get parking passes. Russ does not foresee this event will be cancelled as it is outdoors. There are no restrictions on outdoor events in St. Louis County at this time. Judy Moticka has offered to get candy for the event. Geoff will bring bowls for the candy, table cloths and make sure that all handouts are up to date. Information to be handed out at Greentree will include the Speaker Series event, the Art Exhibit at KPL and the Denis Hart Award.

Awards for Essay Contest Winners

The Council meeting on August 19 where the winners would have been honored has been moved to zoom. The Commission has decided to mail the checks to the winners. When the Council begins to meet in person again, the winners can be brought in at that time to be recognized. Maggie suggested honoring the winners on the front steps of City Hall.

New Business

Geoff asked the Commissioners if they have any comments on the 6 month activity report. Jeanne suggested putting the words "2020 Peace" in front of the word march.

July Subcommittee meeting with Chief Murphy

Geoff asked if anyone had questions regarding the 2020 vehicle stop report given at the July meeting to everyone for review. Carolyn Becker made a comment that she was surprised to see the number of black people stopped in Webster and DesPeres compared to Kirkwood. Geoff indicated that 2020 was an atypical year due to COVID.

Police Open House

Geoff reported this is scheduled for October 2 from 10am-1pm and is outdoor on the parking lot behind the Police station and City Hall. Judy has agreed to be at the event to hand out flyers and information on behalf of the HRC. Nicole, Bob and Jeanne also stated they could be at the event.

Denis Hart Award

There has not been a firm date on when nominations will be accepted. Geoff suggested this would likely be in September or October. Nominations will come in by mail or emailed to Mary Claire who will then forward them to the Commissioners. Freddy Doss usually assists in submitting an article to the Webster Kirkwood Times about the award. The award should also be publicized at the Speaker's Series event in November. The deadline for nominations is due by November 19th and the Commissioners will vote on the nominations sometime in January.

Carolyn Becker reported the School Policy on Educational Equity has been published and is on the Districts webpage. Carolyn was disappointed because the language under protected classes does not include "sexual orientation." Carolyn encouraged everyone to read the Policy.

Jeanne Webdell mentioned this Saturday, August 14th is the free backpack give away in Meacham Park. Judy reported there will also be vaccinations available at this event from BJC. Jeanne has agreed to check out the possibility of getting a table at the event.

Paul confirmed vaccinations will be available at the Church of God in Meacham Park on August 14 from 10am-3pm.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the KHRC is scheduled to be held on September 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjourn

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

Margie Palazzolo, Secretary