

KIRKWOOD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

October 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 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
Jeannie Webdell
Nicole Goldkamp
Ryan Luby

Absent

Paul Ward

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.

Geoff introduced and welcomed Ryan Luby who is the representative from the Youth Advisory Committee. Ryan is a sophomore at KWHS and is a newer member to the Youth Advisory Commission. She has an interest in being a more active member of the community.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Judy Moticka and seconded by Michelle Coleman to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2021 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

City Council Comments

Council Member Duwe attended the Grant Trail Extension Zoom meeting. There will be an equity piece involved in this project and Maggie asked the Board members to be involved if

possible. The intent of the extension is to get biker riders from the trail head in Kirkwood into downtown Kirkwood.

Chief Administrative Officer Comments

Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes reported that in person meetings will be starting Nov. 1st. Everyone on the Board or Commission must agree to have in person meetings as the City does not have the capability to hold hybrid meetings. The in person meetings will follow masking policies outlined by St. Louis County.

Guest Speakers

Geoff welcomes the two guests from the Gender and Sexuality Alliance, James Taylor and Cam McCaslin. Cam is the President of the GSA this year and the goal is to have more of a community feel to the group. They would like to increase the membership and raise awareness on what gender sexuality really is and to create awareness around LGBTQ rights at KWHS and Kirkwood as a whole. James reported there are about 30 students coming to meetings every month. Cam stated the next activity, Solidari-TEA party, is scheduled for Nov. 2 to bring allies and members of the LGBTQ community together within KHS. The GSA will be handing out pronoun pins during the lunch periods at KHS. The pins will be given out to and were purchased from funds raised through a fund raiser. The group hopes to have more fund raising events in the current school year but there is nothing specific planned yet. The group would also like to get connected with the Kirkwood Call newspaper and Ryan offered to help with that connection.

Old Business

Employment Initiative: Geoff reported that Pioneer Bakery and Sammi Soaps both have their stickers in the windows now.

Art Exhibit: Judy reported the submissions will start being brought in around October 25. Maggie Duwe will serve as Deputy Mayor at the opening reception on Nov. 7 from 1pm – 3pm.

Missouri Commission on Human Rights Speaker: The Executive Director will be the one speaking at this event on Nov 10th at KPAC at 7pm. Anyone that is available to help set up the KPAC will be open at 4pm. The HRC will set up tables and chairs. Geoff will contact groups in the area to notify them about the event. Judy will put the event flyer on Facebook page. Freddie will post the event on the Arts Calendar. Judy mentioned that KUM is having a speaker series entitled Racial Justice: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. Jeanne agreed to bring the flyer to KUM to advertise as well.

Dennis Hart Award: The deadline for submissions is Monday, November 15th. Jeanne suggests advertising this at the KUM Speaker events as well. Bob Boyd is going to nominate two people.

Greentree Booth and Police Open House: Judy and Michelle both indicated they had residents interested in serving on the HRC. The Police Open house got rained out. Jeanne asked about getting a different location next year at Greentree. Ryan agreed that a different location might be better at Greentree as some of the booths got lost among the food vendors. Geoff will have a conversation with Kyle Henke about moving the Greentree booth for next year.

Michelle attended the Boards and Commissions dinner in late September reporting that Amanda Sherr, the prior Chairman of the HRC, was recognized.

New Business

Quarterly Meeting with the Police Department/Chief Murphy: Paul, Jeanne and Geoff met with Chief Murphy and sent the report out to everyone prior to this meeting. Michelle commented on the fact that two women dispatchers were interested in doing the training to become police officers. Geoff commented that it is hard to hire police officers right now, much less officers of colors and women.

One Author One Kirkwood: Carolyn is serving as the liaison for this Committee. Carolyn attended the October 1 meeting at the Library. The potential author list was narrowed from 12 to 6 and Mel Lambert will be reaching out to the authors to see who fits into the price range and dates of availability. The top location to host the event is KPAC. A moderator will be decided once the author is decided.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the KHRC is scheduled to be held on November 9th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. This meeting will be via zoom and the guest speaker is Dr. Shondra Amber-Phillips. Judy invited the student representatives to ask questions to Dr. Phillips about any diversity or inclusions issues at this meeting. Judy would like to talk about the essay contest at the November Meeting.

Ryan reported that Indigenous Peoples day was not acknowledged at the school in any way. She feels it would be important to at least recognize this day in some way. Judy suggested bringing this up to Dr. Phillips. Jeanne suggested putting together a calendar of days the Commission feels are important to be a resource for the community.

Adjourn

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

Margie Palazzolo, Secretary