



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

June 12, 2012

6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice Chair Magge Duwe.

Present:

Margaret Duwe
Genevieve Hodges
John Hoffmann
Ed Johnston
Romona Miller
Greta Moorhead
Stacy Reliford

Absent:

Darnel Frost
Tere Owens

City Council Liaison: Council Member Bob Sears

Staff Liaison: Chief Administrative Officer Mike Brown

Also Attending: Kathie Valentine, Administration Department, Beth von Behren, Public Information Officer

Visitors: Ronald Hodges, Laura Greiesedieck, Ben Martin, Harriet Patton, Ruth Manion, K. Turner, Rev. David Bennett, Brother Bob, Rev. Eugene Fowler, Julia Nelson, Ava Nelson, Pastor Larry Addison, Vern Gundermann, Council Members Nancy Luetzow and Paul Ward

Welcoming of New Member

Greta Moorhead was welcomed as a new member of the Commission with members stating they were very pleased by her addition.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Romona Miller. Attendance is reflected above.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Ed Johnston and seconded by Stacy Reliford to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2012 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Visitor Comments

Recommendations and/or concerns regarding the DOJ Mediation Agreement expressed by visitors in attendance in addition to comments of the HRC follows:

- A request was made for a one year extension of the deadline for completion for the DOJ Mediation agreement.
- A recommendation was made that funding be provided in order to contract with a consultant to assist in the completion of the process.
- Asked if community service projects are being provided when students are expelled from school as recommended in the Agreement. Romona Miller advised that very seldom do expulsions from school occur as alternative programs for students are provided by the district.
- Progress has been made, that it is important to be realistic, and that caution should be used when condemning those who are working to make things happen.
- It was noted that a section of the mediation agreement points out that it is the HRC's responsibility to ensure that the parties in the DOJ process make every attempt to carry out the agreement, publishing a written report describing the activities and progress of the agreement.
- Asked the HRC to review what has been completed with a written report.
- At was noted that there has been resistance in the Meacham Park neighborhood regarding installation of a substation with some residents wanting it and others calling it harassment.
- Difficulties with finding a location for a substation were discussed with the HRC being advised that the Church of God in Christ and St. Matthews are willing to offer space.
- Blame will not accomplish anything with finger pointing only bringing division.
- CAO Mike Brown advised that an extension would be the decision of the DOJ Mediation Team.

After discussion, motion was made by Ed Johnston and seconded by Romona Miller to support a request of an extension of the Mediation Agreement deadline. All in favor, motion carried.

Report of City Council Liaison

It was the first meeting of the new Council liaison to the HRC, Bob Sears, who offered to be supportive in any way possible.

Symposium

The symposium is scheduled for October 13. It was recommended that the HRC partner with the Gay Straight Alliance, Social Justice, and Black Achievement and Cultural Club groups at Kirkwood High. CFUH will provide assistance with the symposium facilitation and group breakout period. Student transportation to and from the symposium, for students who attend from St. Louis City, can be provided by the district.

Accessible Parking at the Kirkwood Post Office

Jonathon Browne, Novus, is continuing to work on possible remedies to make the accessible parking safer at the Kirkwood Post Office.

LGBT Ordinance

As a result of a meeting with City Attorney John Hessel, and upon his recommendation, a bullet point letter to the Council had been drafted regarding amending the city's anti-discrimination ordinance to include sexual orientation and gender identity. A copy was distributed to HRC members. Samples of the Ordinance and Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Columbia, Missouri and the University of Missouri School of Law, along with other documents, were distributed. It was reported that Washington University Law School was prepared to participate in a mediation process with the City of Kirkwood (HRC) in order to resolve complaints.

At this time motion was made by Ed Johnston and seconded by Stacy Reliford to approve the distribution of the drafted bullet point letter to the City Council. All in favor, motion carried.

Other

- An additional meeting for the purpose of training will be held in July. After discussion it was determined that a Sunday afternoon or a Monday evening would best work with the date to be determined.
- The "Hot Dog Dayz of Summer" schedule was distributed with members planning to attend when able.

Greenbriar Covenants

There was discussion that although offensive the Greenbriar Covenant could be considered a non-issue due to such discrimination declared illegal, along with some feeling this type of thing is a part of history, a fact that shouldn't be hidden.

After discussion, motion was made by Ed Johnston and seconded by John Hoffman that the HRC compose a letter directed to the Greenbriar Homeowner's Association informing them of the offensive language along with encouragement that the language be deleted. All in favor, motion carried.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the HRC will be held on July 10, 2012 with Tabari Coleman(ADL) and Dr. Ghazala Hayat attending.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Ed Johnston and seconded by Genevieve Hodges to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Romona Miller, Secretary