



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

February 21, 2012

6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Darnel Frost.

Present:

Margaret Duwe
Darnel Frost
Genevieve Hodges
John Hoffmann
Ed Johnston
Tere Owens

Absent:

Romona Miller
Stacy Reliford

City Council Liaison: Council Member Iggy Yuan

Staff Liaison: Chief Administrative Officer Mike Brown - Absent

Also Attending: Kathie Valentine, Administration Department

Visitors: Bill Bommarito, Ron Hodges, Nancy Price, Andrew Shaughnessy, PROMO, Barb Byerly

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Maggie Duwe. Attendance is reflected above.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Tere Owens and seconded by Maggie Duwe to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2012 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Visitor Comments

Andrew Shaughnessy attended to speak to the Commission regarding his request that the City of Kirkwood pass a non-discrimination ordinance regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.

Commission members were advised that City Attorney John Hessel does not recommend that the ordinance change be made as it is his opinion that they are not protected by Federal and State legislation.

Andrew Shaughnessy stated that he did not agree with Mr. Hessel's opinion and that sexual orientation and gender identity are not covered by Title IX. Ed Johnston asked what the standard would be for punishment for discrimination. There was discussion that enforcement would be a problem if a city ordinance was passed. Andrew Shaughnessy stated that the HRC could do research and provide mediation and once completed forward information to the city prosecutor.

Ed Johnston volunteered to work with Andrew Shaghnessy to do the following:

- Develop a plan, program and standard for punishment
- A statute is needed
- HRC would give the City Council standards and guidance
- Contact the State of Missouri HRC

Motion was made by Tere Owens that Ed Johnston work with Andrew Shaughnessy to compile guidelines. Ed Johnston seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Council Member Yuan recommended that City Attorney John Hessel be invited to attend the next regular meeting of the HRC.

Maggie Duwe suggested that other city attorneys, who have passed an ordinance, be contacted.

Bill Bommarito stated that he was at the meeting to observe and that he thought the HRC was a positive thing for the city. He also would like to help promote the Citizen Action Center and requested that a link be added to the HRC webpage.

Nancy Price stated that she was a member of CFUH and spoke regarding civil disobedience and change.

Ron Hodges spoke regarding the Mediation Agreement and the importance of ensuring that items in the agreement are implemented.

- Members of the mediation team need to be held accountable.
- Information on the progress should be made more visible.
- Advised that CFUH would help organize a public forum.
- He questioned the absence of police substations in Meacham Park.
- He will meet with David Bennett to discuss.
- Feels the press will be interested in the progress.

Tere Owens requested an update on the Mediation Agreement status be provided at the March meeting. Darnel Frost offered to contact Chief Plummer, Georgia Ragland, and David Bennett regarding Tere's request. She also asked if the HRC could request that programs in the Mediation Agreement be continued. Genevieve Hodges requested that information regarding the status of the agreement be put in the Eye on Kirkwood and on the city's website.

Council Liaison Comments

Council Member Yuan reported that the budget should be approved for first reading at the next City Council meeting. In April, three Council Members and the Mayor will be up for election. All CERT training spots have been filled. Romona and Alvin Miller received the Chambers Citizen of the Year Award. The HRC members expressed their congratulations to Alvin and Romona.

Election of Chair

Motion was made by Ed Johnston and seconded by Tere Owens to nominate Darnel Frost as Chair. Vote – 6 for Darnel Frost

Election of Vice Chair

Motion was made by Tere Owens and seconded by Ed Johnston to nominate Maggie Duwe as Vice Chair. Vote – 6 for Maggie Duwe.

Apology

Genevieve Hodges read an apologetic statement for Darnel Frost, Maggie Duwe and other members of the HRC for her statement at the previous meeting. Her apology was graciously accepted by all.

Brochure Design

A copy of the HRC brochure was assessed with the following recommendations made:

- Remove Emanuel Cleaver's photograph.
- Add contact information and a photo of the HRC members.
- Consider giving a gift certificate to the student who designed the brochure.
- It was noted that Beth von Behren had reviewed the student's design and had made revisions to ensure the brochure met city standards.

Citizen Complaint

Genevieve Hodges read Carol Gilster's e-mail regarding handicapped parking at the post office. Council Member Yuan will contact Mike Brown regarding the issue. It was noted that Novus is in compliance. Maggie Duwe volunteered to contact Carol Gilster to inform her that the Commission is looking into the handicapped parking situation at the post office.

HRC Vacancy

The Commission recommended that Mayor fill the position as soon as possible.

HRC Annual Report

Ed Johnston is working on the report. Genevieve Hodges asked that the Chair and Vice Chair ensure that report is finalized.

Robinson School

Darnel Frost advised that he continues to work with the Robinson School Principal regarding an Education Fair that may be held in August. The purpose of the fair is to provide students with required medical care (immunizations) prior to the beginning of the school year, along with school supplies, clothing, etc. Although not HRC sponsored, Commission members were asked to participate.

Other

- Maggie Duwe reported that Chief Plummer had requested that she be the liaison between the Police Department chaplain's group and the HRC.
- Maggie Duwe reported on the Meacham Community Garden. Meetings are being held on March 17 and 24.
- Ron Hodges advised that a reception was being held on April 10 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Magic House for Franklin and Tresa McCallie.
- Election of a Secretary will take place at the March meeting.

Symposium

It was recommended that a subcommittee be formed to start working on the 2012 symposium. Ron Hodges stated that the CFUH could provide volunteers and that there would be a CFUH meeting on March 15 at 1:00 p.m. Commission members were invited to attend.

Upcoming Meetings

A special meeting of the Human Rights Commission to make Strategic Plan assignments was scheduled for March 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Kirkwood City Hall.

The next regular meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be held on March 20, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at Kirkwood City Hall.

IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE: The above meeting schedule has changed. The regular meeting of the HRC will be held on March 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the lower level conference room at city hall. The special meeting of the HRC to discuss strategic plan assignments is being held on March 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the main level conference room.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Darnel Frost and seconded by Tere Owens to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Secretary