



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes
August 14, 2012
6:30 p.m.

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

Present:

Darnel Frost
Margaret Duwe
Genevieve Hodges
John Hoffmann
Ed Johnston
Romona Miller
Greta Moorhead
Tere Owens

Absent:

Stacy Reliford

City Council Liaison: Council Member Bob Sears - absent

Staff Liaison: Chief Administrative Officer Mike Brown

Visitors: Nancy Luetzow, Brother Bob, Rev. Eugene Fowler, Rev. David Bennett,
Damien Johnson

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

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

Report of City Council Liaison

None.

Police Department Open House

The police open house is scheduled for October 6.

Coloring books/crayons and other handouts have been provided by the Missouri Human Rights Commission and will be given to children attending the open house. Information on the open house will be forwarded to Commission members prior to the event.

Greentree Festival

Booth shifts at the festival should be determined. The Commission will be sharing the Police Department booth. Darnel Frost offered to check with Kathie Valentine regarding the scheduling.

Visitor Comments

No comments made.

Symposium

- Trader Joe's will provide juice and Great Harvest will donate cookies.
- Tabari Coleman, ADL, is currently out of the country at this time. He will return on August 27 at which time he will be contacted regarding setting up the program.
- Bullying is the topic. Three films are available for the Commission to view. Due to the length of the films they will be able to use selected parts of them. They plan to have a break out session. The possibility of a wrap up session will be discussed.
- The program should be geared to middle school and high school students.
- The facility is available from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Items needed for the breakout period: 3 x 5 cards, pens, sign in sheet along with a facilitator (CFUH) for each room.
- A short meeting should be held in advance of the symposium with the facilitators to ensure everyone knows their role, along with the time, place, etc.
- Mayor McDonnell and Darnel Frost will open the event. There was discussion on Tabari Coleman being designated as the leader of the event. Maggie Duwe has spoken to Beth von Behren regarding advertising the event. Romona Miller can help get information spread at the school district.
- Darnel Frost asked if students could get extra credit for attending.
- Discussed possibly asking students who wrote essays to participate as facilitators/co-sponsors.
- Possibly distribute a questionnaire to students seeking their experience with bullying.
- Give bags with HRC brochure, stickers, etc. Tabari Coleman may be able to provide some items.
- The subcommittee will meet shortly to work on details, and then a meeting will be set with Tabari Coleman.

LGBT Ordinance

A meeting had been held with City Attorney John Hessel which went well. The discussion is continuing. Maggie Duwe had designed a flow chart demonstrating how the ordinance might work. In the future this chart will be provided to the City Council. John Hessel questioned what the Commission's role would be which is something they are working on. Any suggestions should be forwarded to either Darnel Frost or Maggie Duwe. Forms would be made available to anyone who came to the Commission with a complaint so that the Commission could gather information and then forward it for mediation at the Washington University Law School. If someone came to a meeting with a complaint the meeting would be closed for confidentiality.

The law school mediation is entirely confidential. If not successful, the Commission's would then provide information on where someone could go – city prosecuting attorney, obtaining their own attorney, etc. Their job would also be to ensure the claimant felt their complaint was heard, checking back in with them to see if they could assist in any way. If the claimant wanted more enforcement by the city they would contact the prosecuting attorney to look at the information. Springfield, Missouri has a new ordinance. A copy will be forwarded to John Hessel.

The next meeting with John Hessel is scheduled for August 28.

Commission members were reminded of the Missouri Human Rights training being held on Thursday, August 16 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 438 N. Skinker Blvd. Complaint processing will be discussed.

Greenbriar Covenants

Ed Johnston advised that he had written, but not mailed, a letter which he would distribute to the Commission the following Wednesday for review. Mike Brown advised that they had found a trustee, Don Walla, although he did not know who the other two trustees were. Mr. Walla is trying to determine their names and knows the topic in the covenant. Mr. Walla is willing to organize a meeting with neighborhood residents who would meet with Mike Brown and John Hessel. John Hessel will be present because the residents need to understand the implications of the state statute. Mike Brown requested that Ed Johnston also attend.

Accessible Parking at the Kirkwood Post Office

Jonathan Browne advised that they had completed the tear down and replacement of the sidewalk at the southwest end with a ramp has being constructed, allowing wheelchair access to the front of the building from the rear west parking lot during the weekend hours. The front ramp issue is controlled by the post office. Mr. Browne will check with them.

Robinson/BJC Bus

The event was successful with 16 children participating. This was accomplished in partnership with the YWCA. They plan to hold another event in the future.

Subcommittee Reports

Darnel Frost asked if any subcommittees had met.

Tere Owens advised that in the Strategic Plan she is in charge of researching current needs of the community in relationship to human rights issues. She had sent an e-mail to Genevieve Hodges and Maggie Duwe about the possibility of giving out postcards at the Greentree Festival where citizens could complete them at the festival or mail them back. Two questions included on the post card are: 1) What are the important human right issues in Kirkwood, and 2) List the issues you would like the Commission to address. It was recommended that a website link be added where citizens could also answer the questions. Beth von Behren will be contacted regarding the website link request along with Facebook, Patch, and the Webster-Kirkwood Times. There was also discussion of possibly including the information on the utility bills.

Awards and Recognitions

Romona Miller reported that she had spoken to different groups about how they have structured their awards and recognitions. One suggestion was to recognize one person. They could as a group choose an organization that they believe has contributed to human rights in the Kirkwood area. Or, they could start by seeking nominations asking for justification as to why.

In order to celebrate the award they could use a church facility for the recognition event or perhaps hold something at the train station. It was recommended that the award be given in January or the Spring.

Resource List

Greta Moorhead asked if a link to the United Way 211 Resource Line could be added to the city website. Commission members were asked if that would satisfy what they want to do in that regard.

Healthy Community Group Letter

Darnel Frost, Nancy Luetzow, Pastor Bennett, and Ben Martin have been working with a group of leaders in the community regarding concerns regarding items in the mediation agreement that are not completed. The Mediation Team Advisory Committee will hold their last meeting next January. A letter had been e-mailed to Commission members expressing concerns.

Essay Contest

A date for the next contest needs to be determined along with the essay question topic. The deadline for the topic selection was set for December 2012.

HRC Annual Report

The Commission asked that the completion date for the report be e-mailed to them.

HRC Training Session

A training session was set for September 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Kirkwood United Methodist Church.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the HRC will be held on September 11, 2012.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned.

Romona Miller, Secretary