



**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**  
**November 13, 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  
John Hoffmann  
Ed Johnston  
Greta Moorhead

**Absent:**

Genevieve Hodges  
Romona Miller  
Tere Owens  
Stacy Reliford

**City Council Liaison:** Council Member Bob Sears - Absent

**Staff Liaison:** Chief Administrative Officer Mike Brown

**Other:** Kathie Valentine, Administration Department

**Visitors:** None

**Roll Call**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Maggie Duwe and seconded by Greta Moorhead to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2012 meeting as amended. All in favor, motion carried.

**Visitor Comments**

None.

**Report of City Council Liaison**

None.

## **Report of Staff Liaison**

### Department of Justice

Mike Brown reported that the Department of Justice office in Kansas City had been contacted by someone unknown to the city regarding relationship concerns between the city and the Meacham Park neighborhood. He had met with Rita Valencio (DOJ) who talked about opening up more dialogue, although vague about concerns, under the auspices of the DOJ.

- A police review board had been extensively debated during the DOJ process. It was the city's position that there was not a need. There had been no form of harassment by the police department. A citizen panel was viewed as disruptive.
- The appeal process in place begins with the police chief. If not satisfied the appeal would then be forwarded to Mike Brown and to the City Council as a whole.
- The city is committed to dialogue with the Meacham Park neighborhood.

### LGBT Ordinance

Mike Brown advised that he would make a presentation to the City Council regarding the LGBT ordinance at the November 15 work session. Georgia Ragland had expressed concerns to him regarding imbedding sexual identity into the city's personnel rules and regulations, something that is not recommended by the city's labor attorney. John Hessel does support the language being added. Maggie Duwe and Darnel Frost are scheduled to speak to the Council at the work session. Andrew Shaughnessey will also attend. It is hoped that the first reading of the ordinance will also take place that evening.

## **Symposium**

Although there were not a large number of attendees, the symposium went very well. Maggie Duwe read a thank you letter she had received from Maggie Harris (Cultural Leadership Group). There was discussion on continuing the bullying dialogue and that Tabari Coleman would like to work with the school district. He will be meeting with the Robinson School PTO in January. Maggie Duwe asked that the Commission ask 10 neighbors/acquaintances for their opinion on a topic for the next symposium along with a time. Beth von Behren (Public Information Officer for the city) would be available to help with the poll.

## **Essay Contest**

Darnel Frost asked that a positive topic be chosen for the contest. He will send out an e-mail to the Commission for topics. A copy of the essay contest rules will also be e-mailed to the Commission for review and possible revision.

## **Greenbriar Covenant**

The Commission was reminded that the Trustees have the required three to make up their Board and that Jim Durbin has accepted the duty to see the matter through although he is not a trustee. He does live in the subdivision. No neighborhood vote is needed for the change. Ed Johnston had prepared a draft letter to the Osage Hills Neighborhood Association. Mike Brown will advise

the City Council in advance of the mailing of the letter. No list is available of neighborhoods that might have a similar covenant.

There was discussion on sending an update to the Webster-Kirkwood Times regarding the covenant once the revision is completed.

### **Accessible Parking at the Post Office**

Jonathon Browne had advised that when he renegotiated the lease with the postal service, he gave them an improvement allotment that would allow them to meet the ADA requirements. Mike Brown will contact him to check on the status. Maggie Duwe asked that Jonathon Browne be invited to a meeting to speak on the matter.

### **Awards and Recognitions**

Romona Miller and Darnel Frost are working on an awards program that would recognize individuals for doing something positive regarding human rights.

### **Planning for 2013**

Some items discussed regarding planning were:

- Holding town hall meetings in different areas of Kirkwood.
- Attending the Hot Dog Days events.
- Structure may be needed in order to capture information, 10 to 15 individuals is the recommended number for focus groups.
- An extra meeting of the Commission will be held for planning purposes. Four offsite dates for meetings need to be finalized. A HRC work session will be held to establish dates prior to the November meeting.

### **Annual Report**

The annual report will be given at the December 20 City Council meeting.

Commission members were asked to forward topics for the report to Ed Johnston.

### **211 Link**

Beth von Behren will be asked to add the link to the HRC webpage.

### **Next Meeting**

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

### **Adjourn**

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

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**Romona Miller, Secretary**