



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes
May 14, 2013
6:30 p.m.

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

Present:

Margaret Duwe
Genevieve Hodges
John Hoffmann
Greta Moorhead
Tere Owens

Absent:

Darnel Frost
Ed Johnston
Romona Miller

City Council Liaison:

Council Member Bob Sears

Staff Liaison:

Chief Administrative Officer Mike Brown

Other:

Kathie Valentine, Administration

Visitors:

Joe McAvoy

Roll Call

Roll call was taken with attendance reflected above.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by John Hoffmann and seconded by Tere Owens to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2013 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Visitor Comments

Joe McAvoy commented on the LGBT ordinance and his belief that it is complex, excessive, and costly. He also advised that he is against it in its present form, enforcement being presented is too complicated, and that new public input is needed. He requested an update on the recent Department of Justice meetings.

Report of City Council Liaison

Council Member Sears advised that there would be a discussion on the proposed enforcement of the LGBT ordinance at the June 6 City Council work session. All Commission members were encouraged to attend that meeting.

Beth von Behren, Public Information Officer

Beth von Behren attended the meeting and provided an event planning tip sheet (copy attached) to assist Commission members with promoting their events.

Some items noted:

- Planning should begin at least four months prior to an event.
- Personal networking is important.
- Co-sponsoring and/or piggy backing on another event would increase attendance.
- An e-mail list should be developed and used for each event.
- A press plan should be created for their next event.

LGBT Ordinance

Maggie Duwe advised that she, Darnel Frost and John Hessel would meet once more before the June 6 City Council work session regarding LGBT enforcement flow chart. Although the flow chart appears to be complicated it is simple. The HRC will not be investigative, but a disperser of information, helping to direct claimants to appropriate resources.

Accessibility Issues at the Post Office

Mike Brown advised that a local contractor had applied for building permits and that work at the post office should begin shortly. It was noted that the facility is already ADA compliant but that as a result of Jonathan Browne's financial concessions the improvements would be made at the facility.

Symposium

Items discussed:

- Ask citizens for a topic via Facebook.
- Topics suggested for the symposium were:
 - Disabilities, diversity awareness, bullying
- Hold two or three smaller events instead of one large event.
- Have one main speaker but discuss various topics in breakout sessions.
- Call it a conference not symposium.
- Utilize speakers who could provide accreditation to attendees.
- Possibly partner with the Diversity Awareness Partnership (Greta Moorhead will contact) or the Anti-Defamation League (Tabari Coleman).
- Hold a "regional" HRC conference.

Department of Justice Meeting Update

Mike Brown advised that meetings had been held the week of May 6 with the Department of Justice. Although the city is not interested in continuing facilitated meetings, they are committed to working with the Meacham Park neighborhood on issues that would benefit the neighborhood. The Department of Justice had requested that the details of the discussions not be disclosed.

The First Baptist Church in Meacham Park had agreed to host a police substation.

Other

- The Meacham Park Homecoming is being held on June 1.
- There are plans for a day camp (Meacham Park Bright Futures Summer Day Camp). Hope Unlimited will help sponsor the camp and they are seeking corporate donations. Contact person: Jeremy Jones
- There will be a viewing of the film “42” at the Des Peres Theater on May 24 with discussion the following day at the Kirkwood United Methodist Church.
- The Commission would like a schedule of the Hot Dog Dayz events.
- Mayor McDonnell is recommending that Denis Hart (affiliated with the St. Patrick Center) be appointed to the HRC. Board/Commission appointments are being discussed at the May 16 City Council meeting.

Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting of the HRC will be held on June 11, 2013.

Adjourn

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

Romona Miller, Secretary