

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

February 11, 2014

6:30 p.m.

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

Present:

Margaret Duwe
Darnel Frost
Denis Hart
Genevieve Hodges
John Hoffmann
Ed Johnston
Romona Miller
Tere Owens
Greta Todd

Absent:

None

City Council Liaison:

Council Member Bob Sears - Absent

Staff Liaison:

Chief Administrative Officer Mike Brown

Other:

Kathie Valentine, Administration

Visitors:

None.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken with attendance reflected above.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Tere Owens and seconded by Maggie Duwe to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2014 meeting as amended. All in favor, motion carried.

Visitor Comments

None.

Report of City Council Liaison

None.

Report of Chief Administrative Officer

None.

Strategic Plan Reports

C.2 – Genevieve Hodges

Plans are underway to hold a “HRC town hall meeting” at Robinson School. She distributed notes from the subcommittee meeting held on January 27.

There was discussion as follows:

- ✓ Hold 4 “town hall” meetings, one in each of Kirkwood’s 4 quadrants.
- ✓ Obtain a motivational speaker, speech should be no more than 15 minutes in length.
- ✓ All residents would be welcome but the focus should be on residents in the quadrant where the meeting is held.
- ✓ Educate the public on the focus of the HRC.
- ✓ Give citizens a venue to express concerns.
- ✓ At least 2 council members should attend.
- ✓ Clarify what they would be attending.
- ✓ Provide information on block captains/Night Out.
- ✓ Discussed forming a HRC supporters group that could assist the HRC with their events.
- ✓ Tere Owens felt that the commission was being very ambitious with trying to plan 4 sessions during the year and that she felt they should hold one and then regroup and discuss. She suggested contacting churches and PTA’s to find out if they would be interested in collaboration.
- ✓ Greta Todd suggested that instead of having a speaker, they use a facilitator, although there would be a cost associated. There was discussion on the importance of a HRC member providing the facilitation.
- ✓ There were conflicting opinions on what the purpose of the meetings should be with some feeling it should be more about the HRC and the commission’s role, and others feeling that it should be more of a venue for citizen complaints. More discussion is needed.

D.1 – Denis Hart

Denis Hart reported on upcoming conferences.

February 17 - A talk hosted by Webster University "An Evening with Benjamin Jealous" at the Loretto-Hilton Center for the Performing Arts, 130 Edgar Road at 7:30 p.m. The talk is free.

April 4 - The 17th Annual Regional Fair Housing Training Conference "Breaking Down Barriers To Housing Opportunities", sponsored by the Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing and Opportunity Council at the Missouri History Museum, 5700 Lindell from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., registration is \$35.

In September there will be a two day training program in St. Louis presented by the National Community Reinvestment Coalition on Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) and HUD's new AFFH regulations. Tammy Carlyle of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights advised that it will be held either September 11 and 12 or 18 and 19. She will inform us when the date and the St. Louis location have been confirmed. This training will be free.

F.1

Report will be made at the March meeting.

G.1

Maggie Duwe had attended the community group meeting as well as the Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association meeting. She advised that an anonymous complaint form was being developed as well as looking at enabling anonymous complaints through the city's Citizen Action Center.

The next meeting of the Alliance for Interracial Dignity is scheduled on February 27.

International Fair

Genevieve Hodges advised that she is attempting to contact Station Plaza with the hopes of holding an international fair. Romona Miller suggested that Tom Gaither-Ganim be contacted regarding Kirkwood High School's Social Justice event that is held at that location, with the hope of tying in with their event.

HRC Training

There was discussion regarding contacting Tabari Coleman who could possibly provide diversity training for the commission.

HRC Brochure

Greta Todd had met with Public Information Beth von Behren regarding updating the brochure, a draft was distributed. Commission members were asked to forward their suggestions to Greta by the end of the week. The HRC logo will be added.

Fair Housing Grant

The city will handle the grant finances/recordkeeping.

Essay Contest

59 essays had been submitted with copies distributed to commission members. Commission members were asked to bring the names of their top 10 essay authors to the March meeting.

LGBT

There was nothing new to report. Maggie Duwe will contact Council Members Sears.

Other

Upcoming HRC Commission Vacancies

Tere Owens stated that she felt it was important that a citizen from Meacham Park fill one of the vacancies. Interested citizens should contact the City Clerk's office to obtain an application.

Speaker

Ed Johnston advised that he would like to ask Paul Coutinho to speak at an upcoming HRC meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at Kirkwood City Hall.

Adjourn

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

Romona Miller, Secretary

021114