

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**May 13, 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  
Tere Owens

**Absent:**

Greta Todd  
Romona Miller  
Ed Johnston

**City Council Liaison:**

Council Member Bob Sears

**Staff Liaison:**

Chief Administrative Officer Russell Hawes

**Other:**

Mayor Art McDonnell, Police Chief Jack Plummer,  
Kathie Valentine, Administration

**Visitors:**

Antona Smith, Kiden Smith, Rebecca Wiederkehr, Lee Potts

**Roll Call**

Roll call was taken with attendance reflected above.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Maggie Duwe and seconded by Genevieve Hodges to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2014 meeting as amended. All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor McDonnell introduced Kirkwood's new Chief Administrative Officer, Russell Hawes. Mr. Hawes then spoke to the Commission and relayed his enthusiasm regarding his move to Kirkwood and employment at the City.

Chief Jack Plummer thanked the police department staff, especially Lt. Bailey, for their investigation of the incident regarding Kiden Smith, and for quickly locating those responsible.

### **Visitor Comments**

Antona Smith, and her daughter Kiden, attended the meeting to describe the incident Kiden experienced when walking home from school. The Commission thanked Kiden for attending, complimented her on her calmness when it happened, and offered their support and encouragement. Antona Smith thanked Chief Plummer and Officer Bonner for their assistance, and also acknowledged the support they have received from the community.

### **Report of City Council Liaison**

Council Member Sears reported that the discussions on the community center were continuing and that they were still gathering information, looking at costs, etc. He advised that Parks and Recreation Director Murray Pounds should be contacted with further questions.

Regarding the Kirkwood Road/Manchester Road area, he advised that it is now the landowner's decision on what is done with the property.

### **Peter Wilson, Webster Groves Alliance for Interracial Dignity**

Mr. Wilson gave an overview of the group, how it started, their focus (social justice), and what they have or hope to accomplish. Commission members were encouraged to look at partnering, and though hard to sustain, strive to have community dialogue. He recommended going to the Every Day Democracy webpage for information.

### **HRC Brochure**

After discussion, motion was made by Darnel Frost and seconded by Denis Hart, to approve the HRC brochure for printing. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Caretaker Alert Form**

Motion was made by Denis Hart and seconded by Darnel Frost to approve the form with minor revisions. Maggie Duwe will contact Public Information Officer Beth von Behren regarding the revisions.

## **Letter to the Webster-Kirkwood Times regarding the Kiden Smith Incident**

Three versions of the proposed letter to the Webster-Kirkwood Times were presented. After discussion, motion was made by Genevieve Hodges and seconded by Darnel Frost to use the version submitted by Council Member Bob Sears. The motion passed with Tere Owens opposed.

Mayor McDonnell reminded the Commission that any correspondence that is to be submitted for publication, such as the Webster-Kirkwood Times, should first be reviewed by Public Information Beth von Behren.

Maggie Duwe advised that she would e-mail the approved version to Beth von Behren for review.

## **Strategic Plan Reports**

A.4 – Nothing to report. Tabled until the June meeting.

C.2 – Darnel Frost recommended that youth be considered for awards.

D.1 – Noted that the Missouri Commission on Human Rights (Alisa Warren) would like to receive information on speaker presentations at HRC meetings and that their board holds advisory meetings every other month. There will be a seminar in Jefferson City on Civil Rights Enforcement on Fair Housing.

F.1 – Nothing to report.

G.1 – A meeting on the Community Group will be held at Eliot Chapel on May 14. Officer Cox will be providing block captain training on May 19<sup>th</sup> at the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church in Meacham Park.

H.1 – Denis Hart will send an e-mail to the Commission regarding the way the fair housing funds can be spent.

## **Sunshine Law**

Council Member Sears reminded the Commission that Kathie Valentine should be included in e-mail discussions in order to be compliant with the Sunshine Law and that conducting business and decision making must be handled at posted meetings.

**Other**

- Chief Plummer will attend the June HRC meeting.
- Chair Darnel Frost thanked the Commission for their work and complimented Denis Hart on his work on the strategic plan.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the HRC will be held on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at Kirkwood City Hall.

**Adjourn**

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

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Romona Miller, Secretary