

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**June 10, 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  
Romona Miller  
Tere Owens

**Absent:**

Ed Johnston

**City Council Liaison:**

Council Member Bob Sears

**Staff Liaison:**

Chief Administrative Officer Russell Hawes

**Other:**

Police Chief Jack Plummer  
Kathie Valentine, Administration

**Visitors:**

Ron Hodges

**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 May 13, 2014 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

**Visitor Comments**

None.

## **Report of City Council Liaison**

Council Member Sears reported that a RFP regarding the community center study would soon go before the City Council.

Two new businesses will be opening in Kirkwood, Strange Donuts and a soap boutique.

## **Chief Jack Plummer**

Chief Plummer described a sports focused summer program that will be held over the summer at Nipher School. The program will begin the last Monday in June and run through the summer months. Hot Dog Dayz will again be held at various Kirkwood parks over the summer months. A copy of the schedule will be forwarded to the Commission.

After discussion, it was recommended that information on the Nipher program be forwarded to Beth von Behren for publication in the Webster-Kirkwood Times, the Eye on Kirkwood, and by other methods.

Darnel Frost complimented Chief Plummer and his department on their handling of the Kiden Smith incident.

Chief Plummer advised that although his department discusses safety with business owners, their focus is on safety at the schools in the area.

## **Strategic Plan Reports**

A.3 – Completed.

A.4 – Citizen Action Center (CAC) – Romona Miller and Denis Hart had met and discussed the city's CAC and determined that it is a viable option but they feel it needs to be publicized more (utility bill inserts/Eye on Kirkwood, etc.). Citizens have the option of using a computer at the Kirkwood Library if they don't have one to enter information. They are also interested in being able to look at data on the number of complaints received and the outcome. It was recommended that Commission members look at the City of Columbia's website and their reporting system. It was suggested that the CAC "button" be moved to a different location on the city's web page that is easier to see. Russ Hawes will look into the matter and report back to the Commission at the July meeting.

B.2 – Denis Hart reported that he has been attending the community group meetings at Eliot Chapel and that they are trying to determine their mission.

B.3 – Previously discussed.

B.4 – Previously discussed.

B.5 – There was discussion on possibly holding an art fair instead of having the essay contest, and alternating the events from year to year. Some items discussed: coordinating with the high school art department, forming a subcommittee, Kirkwood, Vianney and Ursuline students be invited to participate. Tere Owens volunteered to speak with the Kirkwood Arts Council. Darnel Frost will contact Agnes Garino of the Kirkwood Cultural and Arts Commission.

B.6 – Ongoing.

C.2 – Discussed in B.5.

### **Fair Housing Grant**

Denis Hart reminded the Commission that they have \$1,000 to spend by the end of September. He will e-mail information on upcoming seminars that they may want to attend such as a Fair Housing seminar in Kansas City being held the end of September.

### **Neighborhood Caretaker Alert Form**

It is felt that an anonymous form is needed as a venue for making complaints by those who fear retaliation. It was recommended that information be placed on the city's website regarding the form. It would also be placed in churches, stores, and distributed by block captains.

### **LGBT Ordinance**

The item has been tentatively placed on an upcoming work session agenda.

### **Other**

1. Genevieve Hodges spoke on the block captain meeting held in Meacham Park and their plan to holding a first aid class, CERT training, safety drill, and other training for residents.
2. Denis Hart advised that he would be attending a Fair Housing Seminar on June 13<sup>th</sup> – HUD Equal Access Rule and the LGBT Community and that he would report back to the Commission.
3. Genevieve Hodges, who will soon be leaving the HRC, stated that she has very much enjoyed being on the Commission, that she is proud of their accomplishments and the friendships she has made.
4. Darnel Frost thanked both Genevieve Hodges and John Hoffmann for their work on the Commission.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the HRC will be held on Tuesday, July 8, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at Kirkwood City Hall.

**Adjourn**

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

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Romona Miller, Secretary