



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

July 8, 2014

6:30 p.m.

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

Present:

Margaret Duwe
Jacob Fiene
Darnel Frost
Denis Hart
Genevieve Hodges
Tere Owens

Absent:

Ed Johnston
Romona Miller

City Council Liaison:

Council Member Bob Sears- Absent

Staff Liaison:

Chief Administrative Officer Russell Hawes

Other:

Kathie Valentine, Administration

Visitors:

Jeffrey Blair, Jeffrey Blair, Jr., Gretchen Curry, Ron Hodges, Amy Hunter, Josh Lewis, Liz Morrison, Emmie Morrison, Lee Potts, Rebecca Wiederkehr

Roll Call

Roll call was taken with attendance reflected above.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Darnel Frost and seconded by Maggie Duwe to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2014 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Report of City Council Liaison

None.

Neighborhood Caretaker Alert Form

Copies of the revised Neighborhood Caretaker Alert Form were distributed. Russ Hawes explained that numbered copies of the form will be available for the public to complete and return to the city. Residents will be able to track the progress of their concern via a dedicated area on the city's website. It is anticipated that the program will serve as an anonymous way to open lines of communication and could be up and running within a month.

Copies of all complaints that are received will be distributed to Commission members through e-mail.

Welcome of New Commission Member

Darnel Frost welcomed Jacob Fiene to the Commission.

Visitor Comments

A presentation on the Witnessing White program was made by Rebecca Wiederkehr, Lee Potts and Amy Hunter. The program is structured to help people understand what it means to be white in today's society, white privilege, along with building anti-racist practices.

Strategic Plan Reports

A.1 Jacob Fiene volunteered to work on the HRC Facebook page.

A.2 Maggie Duwe has been communicating with Public Information Officer Beth von Behren.

A.4 The Citizen Action Center access on the city's website has been enhanced by adding access under the "For Resident's" navigational tab. There is also discussion on possibly switching to a different system.

B.5 & C.2 The Commission is considering having an art contest in lieu of the essay contest this year. A subcommittee will be formed.

H.1 Denis Hart spoke on a Fair Housing Symposium that will be held in Kansas City In September. He will e-mail information to the Commission.

Ron Hodges spoke regarding the condition of HUD housing in the Meacham Park area and possible ways to alleviate problems.

LGBT Ordinance

The Commission expressed their frustration on the lack of a decision on the part of the City Council regarding proposed enforcement legislation. It was the consensus of the Commission to send a letter to the City Council expressing their concerns. Maggie Duwe indicated that she would contact Council Member Sears.

Community Group Meetings

Denis Hart advised that the name "Kirkwood Neighbors United" would be presented to the community group at their July 16 meeting as a possible name for the group. A mission statement is also being developed.

Other

- Genevieve Hodges expressed concerns regarding the lack of sidewalks south of Rose Hill.
- Josh Lewis pointed out that a bench near the sidewalk at UMB Bank needs to be moved.
- Hot Dog Dayz events are being held at local parks.
- Discussed hosting a viewing of the "Elegy to Connie".
- The summer program at Nipher School has begun.
- The "Ready in 3" program was given at a recent Meacham Park block party meeting. Genevieve Hodges and Maggie Duwe indicated that they would like to make a presentation at the August HRC meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the HRC will be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at Kirkwood City Hall.

Adjourn

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

Romona Miller, Secretary

