

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**November 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  
Romona Miller  
Tere Owens

**Absent:**

Jacob Fiene  
Josh Lewis

**City Council Liaison:**

Council Member Bob Sears

**Staff Liaison:**

Chief Administrative Officer Russell Hawes

**Other:**

Kathie Valentine, Administration

**Visitors:**

Brandie Martine, John Hoffmann

**Roll Call**

Roll call was taken with attendance reflected above. Darnel Frost advised that Ed Johnston had resigned from the Commission due to work conflicts. Commission members complimented Ed for his work while on the HRC.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Maggie Duwe and seconded by Denis Hart to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2014 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

**Visitors – Brandie Martine and John Hoffmann, Kirkwood Neighbors United**

Brandie Martine and John Hoffmann attended the meeting to request that a disability needs assessment questionnaire be sent to Kirkwood residents. Discussed were:

- The assessment should reflect things that are positive along with areas that need improvement. It should be a fairly short survey.
- They would like the assessment to be a joint effort between the City of Kirkwood and Kirkwood Neighbors United.
- St. Louis ARC is being contacted regarding recycling old adult tricycles. It is hoped that walkways and paths can be constructed to fit those as well.
- The Commission should consider adding a disability assessment category to the HRC strategic plan.
- Trailnet is assessing the Kirkwood area and is considering adding street markings for bike and pedestrian trails.
- Council Member Sears advised that the city is working on their strategic plan and that a disability needs assessment should possibly be included in the plan. It was noted that a strategic plan is a document that reflects things that should occur over a certain period of time.
- The city is currently performing a sidewalk inventory.
- Access to transportation and pedestrian accommodations will be a major component of the comprehensive plan.

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

Council Member Sears commented on the importance of Veteran's Day.

At their November 6 meeting, the City Council passed a resolution, reflecting their outrage, regarding the state allowing the open carry of weapons.

### **Strategic Plan Reports**

A.1 – Darnel Frost noted that Jacob Fiene has been doing a great job posting on the HRC Facebook page. Beth von Behren will be contacted regarding adding photos.

A.2. – Maggie Duwe had attended the Re-envisioning Diversity Workshop presented by Fred Falker.

A.4 – Additional Neighborhood Caretaker Alert forms should be sent to the Kirkwood Community Center.

B.5 – The Commission has decided to hold an art fair in lieu of the essay contest this year.

C.2 – It is hoped that Patricia Bynes and/or Reverend Ella Jones will be able to attend an upcoming HRC meeting.

D.1 – A Human Rights Roundtable, Empower Missouri, will take place on December 5 in Jefferson City. Information on the event will be forwarded to the Commission. Attendance at the meeting was encouraged.

D.2 - Maggie Duwe would like Fred Falker to provide training for the Commission once the vacant slots are filled.

E.1 – Darnel Frost is considering volunteering to prepare the year-end report.

F.1 – Category responsibility should be reassigned when the strategic plan is updated.

G.1 – Kirkwood Neighbors United and the Community for Understanding and Hope groups continue to meet. There will be a meeting on “Race and Justice” on December 6 at the Kirkwood Baptist Church with a speaker and a breakout session.

Denis Hart asked that Commission members review the current strategic plan looking at ways to combine, drop, or add categories.

### **LGBT Ordinance**

Maggie Duwe reported that she had met with City Attorney John Hessel and that the enforcement chart had been revised considerably. The current chart went beyond the Commission’s scope of authority and those items will be reassigned to other organizations once the revised chart is completed.

### **Art Fair**

A subcommittee consisting of Darnel Frost, Denis Hart, Maggie Duwe, Romona Miller and former HRC member Genevieve Hodges met on November 9<sup>th</sup> regarding the upcoming art fair. A second planning session is scheduled on November 20<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that an art teacher from Robison Elementary will attend this session as well as the school principal. They hope to coordinate this event with the Kirkwood Arts Commission.

### **Other**

- The film “Eulogy to Connie” will be shown at Eliot Chapel in January.
- Eliot Chapel will also hold a service at 7:00 p.m. the evening of the Grand Jury announcement on the Michael Brown case.
- A copy of the handout provided at the recent Board and Commission training session was distributed.
- A meeting on Witnessing White will be held after the first of the year.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 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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Tere Owens, Secretary