

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

January 13, 2015

6:30 p.m.

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

Present:

Bob Boyd
Margaret Duwe
Darnel Frost
Denis Hart
Ron Hodges
Jacob Fiene
Romona Miller
Tere Owens

Absent:

Josh Lewis

City Council Liaison:

Council Member Bob Sears

Staff Liaison:

Chief Administrative Officer Russell Hawes

Other:

Kathie Valentine, Administration

Visitors:

None.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken with attendance reflected above.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Maggie Duwe to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2014 meeting.
All in favor, motion carried.

City Council Liaison Report

Council Member Sears advised that the Community Center Study Committee was scheduled to meet later in the week with planners/architects. The recent survey reflected that a high number of residents are in favor of a new center. Public meetings will be held on January 21st and January 24th at the Kirkwood Community Center.

Strategic Planning Session

The HRC Strategic Planning Session date was set for Sunday, January 25, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Kirkwood Community Center.

Denis Hart asked commission members to review the current strategic plan prior to the meeting, designating areas they are interested participating in.

Essay Contest

After discussion, "What are the practical steps to improve racial justice?" was chosen as the essay question. Other essay questions presented were: 1) How has race relations changed since we have had an Afro-American president, and 2) Identify a situation, local or international, where the right of security and right of freedom of speech conflicted.

Kathie Valentine will make the necessary edits to the essay contest rules form and e-mail a copy to Romona Miller who will then disseminate information to the schools. Public Information Officer Beth von Behren will be asked to prepare a press release.

- Essays are due on February 20.
- Essay rankings should be brought to the March 10 Human Rights Commission meeting.
- Awards will be presented at the April 2 City Council meeting.

Other

The film Elegy to Connie will be shown at Eliot Chapel on Friday, January 16.

Strategic Plan Reports

A.1. Darnel Frost noted that Jacob Fiene has been doing a wonderful job posting on the HRC Facebook page.

A.2. Beth von Behren will be contacted regarding the HRC Art Fair.

A.4. Denis Hart advised that he was pleased with the Citizen Action Line and the Neighborhood Caretaker Alert form and asked if the Commission would like the city to prepare a report reflecting the number and type of complaints. After discussion, the HRC requested quarterly reports be prepared reflecting all complaints received, not just those relative to the HRC. CAO Russ Hawes advised that a majority of the forms received were in regard to code enforcement issues.

B.1. This category will be updated after the HRC Strategic Planning Session.

C.1. In the past year speakers have been invited to the HRC meetings. The Commission will determine if they want to plan a conference or in lieu of that, continue inviting speakers to meetings (to be discussed at the Strategic Planning Session). Darnel Frost is waiting to hear back from the teachers at Robinson School regarding the HRC Art Fair.

E.3. The Year End Report should be presented to the City Council no later than the 2nd meeting in February.

LGBT Enforcement

Council Member Sears advised that he had asked John Hessel to prepare a draft ordinance to be presented for discussion at a City Council work session if it is the proper procedure to do so. Council Member Sears is awaiting Mr. Hessel's response.

CAO Report

Russ Hawes advised that he would be presenting the budget highlights at the January 15 City Council Work Session.

Community Survey

Ron Hodges complimented Georgia Ragland on her work on the Community Survey.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 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.

Tere Owens, Secretary