

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

March 10, 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

Absent:

Josh Lewis
Romona Miller
Tere Owens

City Council Liaison:

Council Member Bob Sears - Absent

Staff Liaison:

Chief Administrative Officer Russell Hawes

Other:

Kathie Valentine, Administration

Visitors:

Bret Heinrich

Roll Call

Roll call was taken with attendance reflected above.

Visitor Comments

Mayor Art McDonnell advised the Commission that due to health concerns Josh Lewis would not be able to attend meetings for a period of time.

Bret Heinrich, Kirkwood School Board candidate, attended the meeting and spoke on his qualifications for the position.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Maggie Duwe and seconded by Denis Hart to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2015 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

City Council Liaison Report

None.

Chief Administrative Officer Report

Russ Hawes reported that the first reading of the city's budget had taken place at the March 5th City Council meeting. Copies of several Neighborhood Caretaker Alert forms that the City Clerk had received were reviewed by Commission members. It was explained that once a form is received in the City Clerk's office, by city policy a response from the appropriate department is required within 48 hours. Mr. Hawes was thanked for his work in developing the form.

Essay Contest

Essay contest rankings were given to Chair Darnel Frost who will enter the information into a spreadsheet in order to determine the winners.

HRC Strategic Plan

Motion was made by Darnel Frost and seconded by Maggie Duwe to approve the new strategic plan (dated 1/27/2015) as drafted. All in favor, motion carried. Denis Hart was thanked for his work on the plan.

Strategic Plan Reports

B.2, B.3, B.4, B.6

- A meeting had been held with Russ Hawes, Denis Hart, and Doug Riggs in attendance, regarding a newly drafted disability survey which will be included in the HRC's Strategic Plan.
- It is anticipated that the survey will be posted on the city's website and also in the Webster-Kirkwood Times.
- Survey ending date – May 31

- CAO Russ Hawes and Public Information Officer Beth von Behren were thanked for their support and assistance.
- Kirkwood Neighbors United are working on a process to assist individuals in finding employment. Discussed were: the importance of credit scores for job seekers, and promoting clothing donations for job interviews.
- Kirkwood Neighbors United plan to meet again on March 25 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Eliot Chapel.
- The Regional Human Rights Commission group plans to meet in March at the Clayton Library.

Commission Vacancies

There was discussion regarding asking the Mayor if he would consider appointing a high school student to the Commission. It was noted that such an appointment would have to be ex officio and that Romona Miller and/or Tom Gaither-Ganim would be a good resources for student recommendations. Darnel Frost offered to contact the Mayor to discuss the concept.

Art Fair

The art fair was a success with each grade level receiving an award. Darnel Frost offered to contact Sarah Erwin regarding possibly displaying the winning art work at the Kirkwood Public Library. It was noted that in order to display art work at the Kirkwood Train Station a reservation must be made far in advance of the desired display date.

LGBT

There was nothing new to report.

Year End Report

It is hoped that the year-end report can be given in April.

Other

- A conference “Modern Segregation: Addressing Barriers to Equality in Local Governments” will be held on Friday, April 10, at the Missouri History Museum.
- Envision Kirkwood 2035 – The city has hired a marketing firm that will gather information from residents on land development, housing, accessibility, walkability, desirability, etc. through gatherings/fun-type events.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 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