

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**July 14, 2015**

**6:30 p.m.**

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

**Present:**

Bob Boyd  
Morris Fletcher  
Darnel Frost, Chair  
Denis Hart  
Ron Hodges  
Josh Lewis  
William Winter

**City Council Liaison:** Council Member Bob Sears

**Other:** Chief Administrative Officer Russell Hawes  
Kathie Valentine, City of Kirkwood Administration Department

**Visitors:** None.

**Roll Call**

Darnel Frost called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken with attendance reflected above.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Bob Boyd and seconded by Josh Lewis to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2015 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

**Report of City Council Liaison**

Council Member Sears reported that information on LGBT enforcement was presented to the City Council at their last work session with no significant issues noted. If the ordinance passes the first reading on August 20<sup>th</sup>, the second reading would be on September 3.

A street analysis has been completed in the city with funds being allotted to allow for street maintenance as well as street replacements.

Demolition will need to occur at the intersection of Kirkwood Road and Manchester Road prior to the beginning of the new construction in that location.

### **CAO Comments**

The first Community Day at the Park was held at Fillmore Park with citizens meeting Council Members as well as department heads. The next event will be held on July 18 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Avery Park. Other events are scheduled at Monfort Park in August and Meacham Park Memorial Park in October. These events are publicized through the Eye on Kirkwood, E-News, Facebook and Twitter.

### **E-mails and the Sunshine Law**

A memo from the City Clerk regarding E-mails and the Sunshine Law was included in the meeting packet. Chair Darnel Frost asked Commission Members to read the memo and that the City Clerk could be contacted with any questions.

### **Introduction of New Members**

Morris Fletcher and William Winter were introduced with both speaking about their professional backgrounds.

### **Strategic Plan Reports**

A.1 – There have been nearly 100 “likes” on the HRC Facebook page. There is a link on the city’s website to the HRC page where a lot of information can be found.

B.1 – There will be a Regional HRC meeting on July 18 in Bridgeton to address various matters. The Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association is circulating a community survey and are also asking for donations of backpacks and other school supplies.

B.3 – Bob Boyd offered to invite staff from the Shepard’s Center to a HRC meeting and also Rev. Gadon from Eliot Chapel.

C.1 – Events and contests promoted by the HRC were: essay contest, art fair, symposium. Individuals have also been invited to speak at meetings regarding human rights issues. It was mentioned that Romona Miller had attended a diversity class and had offered to provide information on the class to the HRC.

D.1 – HRC members have attended various meetings throughout the year.

E.2 – They plan to prepare quarterly reports so that they have information available to assist in preparing the yearly report for the City Council.

G.5 - Denis Hart reported that 130 disability responses had been received and that St. Louis ARC would be working in conjunction with the city and Kirkwood Neighbors United to analyze the surveys.

Note: William Winter will replace Jacob Fiene and Morris Fletcher will replace Tere Owens on the Strategic Plan/Responsibility.

### **October Utility Bill Insert**

Bob Boyd advised that he had spoken to Beth von Behren regarding the October utility bill insert. After discussion, it was recommended that information on the HRC's Strategic Plan be used. Denis Hart and Bob Boyd plan to prepare a shortened version.

### **Essay Contest with St. Louis Community College – Meramec**

After preliminary discussion, it was determined that Meramec was not interested in this concept.

### **Awards**

The HRC would like to give awards to individuals or agencies in the community who have done or are doing positive things in regards to human rights. It was noted that such an award could be presented at a City Council meeting.

### **Items Mentioned During the Meeting**

- Ron Hodges mentioned that there had been a couple of instances where trash had been picked up late in Meacham Park. It is thought that it might be the result of lack of personnel available at times.
- Ron Hodges expressed concerns regarding Fair Housing residences and crime in Meacham Park, that he felt it should be part of the city's Strategic Plan. He also hopes to meet with Chief Plummer. It was suggested that the Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association consider contacting the Housing Authority.

- The Commission had previously discussed having a high school student join the Commission. Difficulties noted were: students are busy and it would be another commitment, is there an interest, a plan would need to be presented to the mayor for consideration.
- There was an inquiry on the correct way to have an item added to an agenda. Members were instructed to contact Darnel Frost.
- Regarding racial profiling, Ron Hodges asked if something could be put in place regarding the police department's performance over time. It was recommended that a link to the State of Missouri website be put on the city's website where that type of information can be located.

### **Election of Vice Chair and Secretary**

Election of the two positions may be delayed until the full Commission has been appointed.

### **Training**

Fred Falker and/or Tabari Coleman may be contacted in the future for training purposes.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on August 11, 2015.

### **Adjourn**

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

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Secretary