

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

August 11, 2015

6:30 p.m.

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

Present:

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

Absent:

Bob Boyd

City Council Liaison: Council Member Bob Sears - absent

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

Visitors: Council Member Paul Ward

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Josh Lewis and seconded by William Winter to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2015 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Report of City Council Liaison

None.

CAO Comments

Russ Hawes advised that the next Community Day at the Park would be held on Saturday, August 15th at Montford Park. The event will be held at Meacham Park Memorial Park in October.

Strategic Plan Reports

A.2 – Denis Hart gave an update on the progress of the disability survey and complimented Beth von Behren on her work on the executive summary form.

B.2 – The HRC will once again share space in the city’s booth at the Greentree Festival.

D.2 – The Regional HRC group was formed six months ago with a goal of collaboration and support of city initiatives in the St. Louis area. Denis Hart had e-mailed a copy of the Missouri Human Rights report on racial profiling to commission members and to Chief Plummer.

(Denis Hart asked HRC members to find someone to substitute when they are absent and not able to give their strategic plan report.)

Training

Some items noted were:

- A book study is a good way for the HRC to come together as a group.
- Considered using the Anti-Defamation League or Fred Falker for training, noted that there would be a cost for training.

HRC Second Quarter Report

A copy of the second quarter report was distributed at the meeting.

Proposal – Burlington Norther Santa Fe By-Pass

William Winter reported that he had attended three community meetings and that the backpack rally at Meacham Park was a great success. He had conversations with many people at the event and had decided that he wanted to focus on Meacham Park. He presented a proposal to build a footbridge over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad tracks as students in the Meacham area cross the tracks to get to school. A handout was provided with information on the meetings he attended as well as his proposal for the footbridge.

There was also discussion regarding the lack of sidewalks along south Kirkwood Road.

Paul Ward entered the meeting.

Darnel Frost suggested that William Winter contact Tom Gaither-Ganim at the Kirkwood School District regarding his walkway proposal as he and several high school students had previously presented the concept of the walkway to the HRC.

Morris Fletcher pointed out that in order for a bridge to be built feasibility study would need to be completed and that also something like that would take a large amount of funding.

October Utility Bill Insert

A copy of the proposed utility bill insert was distributed. After review, motion was made by Denis Hart and seconded by Josh Lewis to approve the insert. All in favor, motion carried.

Awards

Darnel Frost provided details regarding the previous awards which were given in 2013 and advised that it is not the intention of the HRC to present awards yearly. Ron Hodges and William Winter volunteered to be on the awards subcommittee. William Winter added that he preferred award recipients be Kirkwood residents.

LGBT

Russ Hawes explained that the city currently has a LGBT ordinance and that the LGBT enforcement bill could receive its first reading at the August 20th City Council meeting.

Other

Ron Hodges mentioned that he had met with Russ Hawes regarding the problems with the Fair Housing residences in Meacham Park with Russ Hawes reporting that staff is currently trying to make contact with the Fair Housing Authority. Ron Hodges had also contacted Chief Plummer regarding code enforcement.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on September 8, 2015.

Adjourn

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

Secretary