

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

February 9, 2016

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
Amanda Sher
William Winter

Absent:

Robert Boyd

City Council Liaison:

Council Member Bob Sears - Absent

Chief Administrative Officer:

Russ Hawes - Absent

Other:

Kathie Valentine, City of Kirkwood Administration Department
Rev. Barbara Gadon, Eliot Chapel

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Morris Fletcher and seconded by Denis Hart to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2016 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Rev. Barbara Gadon, Eliot Chapel

Rev. Gadon handed out a report prepared by the Kirkwood Policing Committee on their activities and related events. The committee consists of members of Kirkwood Neighbors United and Eliot Unitarian Chapel. She explained that they would like the Kirkwood Police Department to be a leader in implementing best practices to reduce bias in policing which would include best practices training at all levels, protocols for body cameras including storage and viewing rights of the film, and uncompleted

reforms left from the Department of Justice Agreement. (A copy of the report of the Kirkwood Policing Committee is attached.)

Discussed were:

- Should they add policing to the HRC Strategic Plan.
- Requested a copy of the St. Louis County Proposal regarding county-wide policing reforms.
- Requested a copy of the report prepared by the state on police stops in Kirkwood.
- Consider reviewing the Mediation Agreement to see if there are non-completed items.
- Coordinating a dialogue session to discuss policing.

Essay Contest

Darnel Frost reported that information on the essay contest had been distributed to the English Department at Kirkwood High School as well as to Ursuline Academy and Vianney. Essays are due on February 19.

It was suggested that the essay contest winner be asked to read their essay at the MLK event next year. Denis Hart offered to contact Jeffrey Blair to offer the HRC's assistance at the event.

Annual Report

Motion was made by Morris Fletcher and seconded by Amanda Sher to approve the report as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Darnel Frost will contact the City Clerk in order to schedule its presentation at an upcoming City Council meeting.

Strategic Plan

Darnel Frost thanked Denis Hart and all HRC members for their work on the strategic plan.

Motion was made by William Winter and seconded by Josh Lewis to approve the strategic plan as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Other

- Ron Hodges asked if the school district was considering discontinuing the recently added bus service in Meacham Park. Darnel Frost advised that the Meacham Park route was considered a hazardous bus route and would not be discontinued.
- The Commission discussed holding a conference with Darnel Frost suggesting they come up with ideas for that type of an event.
- The Commission discussed the possibility of making an award and also noted that making an award should not be a yearly event.

- Amana Sher and Robert Boyd have plans to meet with Beth von Behren in order to discuss communication tools.
- Members were reminded to forward their Board/Commission training surveys to the City Clerk.
- The Commission would like to receive additional training.
- Discussed asking a Kirkwood High School student(s) to participate on the Commission and the need for guidelines for such a role. It was suggested that Romona Miller be contacted to get her input.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the HRC will be held on March 8, 2016.

Adjourn

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

Robert Boyd, Secretary