



## HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

### Minutes

May 10, 2016

6:30 p.m.

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

#### **Present:**

Robert Boyd  
Morris Fletcher  
Darnel Frost, Chair  
Jill Johnson  
Josh Lewis  
Amanda Sher  
William Winter

#### **Absent:**

Ron Hodges  
Denis Hart

#### **City Council Liaison:**

Council Member Bob Sears - Absent

**Chief Administrative Officer:** Russ Hawes - Absent

#### **Other:**

Kathie Valentine, Administration

#### **Roll Call**

Roll call was taken with attendance reflected above.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Morris Fletcher and seconded by Robert Boyd to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2016 meeting as amended. All in favor, motion carried.

#### **R7 School District and HRC Essay Contest Concerns**

Darnel Frost reported that he and Denis Hart had drafted a letter to the R7 School District regarding student concerns the Commission had noted when reading the essays that had been submitted for the contest. So far he had heard back from Tom Williams. Commission Members requested a copy of the letter be e-mailed to them.

## **Strategic Plan Reports**

A.1 – Amanda Sher advised that she has been adding information regarding Women’s History Month on the HRC Facebook page. She has been inviting her Facebook friends to view the page and encouraged the Commission to do the same. She plans to contact Beth von Behren regarding placing a new picture on the page, possibly photographs taken when the essay contest awards were given.

A.2 – Amanda Sher has met with Beth von Behren to discuss communication ideas.

A.4 – Darnel Frost reported that he was not aware of any Neighborhood Caretaker Alert Forms being submitted pertaining to the HRC. He provided information on the development of the form.

B.1 – A meeting of the “Kirkwood Policing Committee” had been held at Eliot Chapel with Morris Fletcher and Jill Johnson attending. Morris Fletcher advised that he had met with Russ Hawes who had provided him with a copy of the police department’s policy but that the Eliot Chapel group had asked him to find out if the material received was complete, that they were looking for additional policies related to sensitivity training and race relations, and policies related to cameras and traffic stops. He is currently waiting to hear back from Russ Hawes about the additional request for information. A new report on traffic stops is expected from the State in June. Morris Fletcher noted that the “Kirkwood Policing Committee” describe themselves as a group of interested people who are striving to compare Kirkwood policing policy to that presented by the Ferguson Commission. They want to know if Kirkwood is concerned and if so, what they are doing about it. He noted that Mayor Griffin had met with Rev. Gadon. Morris Fletcher encouraged Commission Members to attend the next meeting of the “Kirkwood Policing Committee” which is scheduled for the first Thursday of the month at Eliot Chapel. He suggested they all read the book written by Andrea Boyle, noting that some things in the book are incorrect.

An informational flyer on events being scheduled on May 13 and May 14 by the Metropolitan Congregations United was distributed. The group is focused on the pipeline from “school to prison”.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission to ask Chief Plummer to attend the June meeting.

B.2 – Hot Dog Dayz are being held at various parks. The Commission requested a copy of the schedule.

William Winter had attended a meeting of the Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association and noted that citizens were unhappy with noise associated with individuals playing basketball in the evening and that the Kirkwood Police Department had been contacted multiple times.

B.3 – It is the intention of Robert Boyd to invite Chief Plummer to the June meeting.

C.1 – Amanda Sher has posted a lot of information on the HRC Facebook page in regarding women’s issues. There was discussion on bringing a mammogram bus to Kirkwood. Robert Boyd suggested a possible collaboration with the YMCA who currently schedules that type of service.

C.4 – In the past the Commission had discussed trying to work in partnership with the school district inviting students to attend HRC meetings. Darnel Frost offered to contact Tom Gaither-Ganim at the Kirkwood School District to see if there was an interest. There was also discussion on contacting Vianney and Ursuline.

D.1 – Missouri Commission on Human Right meetings had been attended by some members of the Commission. Denis Hart is quite active with the St. Louis Regional Human Rights Commission.

D.2 – The Commission is interested in receiving diversity training. It was noted that UMSL offers a lot of programs on diversity and has scheduled a transgender workshop in the Fall.

E.1 – The first quarter report had been presented at the April meeting.

G. 3 – The Disability Survey prepared by the HRC and Kirkwood Neighbors United will be presented at a work session of the City Council on July 7.

### **Other**

Morris Fletcher would like to do research to find out if there are any covenants in the City of Kirkwood.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the HRC will be held on June 14, 2016.

**Adjourn**

Motion was made by William Winter and seconded by Robert Boyd to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

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Robert Boyd, Secretary