

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**June 14, 2016**

**6:30 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice Chair Denis Hart.

**Present:**

Robert Boyd, Vice Chair  
Morris Fletcher  
Denis Hart, Chair  
Ron Hodges  
Judy Moticka  
Amanda Sher, Secretary  
William Winter

**Absent:**

Jill Johnson  
Josh Lewis

**City Council Liaison:**

Council Member Bob Sears

**Chief Administrative Officer:**

Russ Hawes

**Other:**

Kathie Valentine, Administration

**Visitors:**

Margaret Burdge, Janet Soleki, Beth Griffin, Lary Mohl

**Roll Call**

Roll call was taken with attendance reflected above.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Amanda Sher and seconded by Ron Hodges to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2016 meeting as amended by Morris Fletcher. All in favor, motion carried.

**Introduction of Commission Member and Visitors**

Denis Hart introduced Judy Moticka who had recently been appointed to the Human Rights Commission.

Visitors who were at the meeting introduced themselves.

Chief Plummer introduced Gary Baldrige who has been assigned the Community Services position at the police department.

## **Candlelight Vigil**

Russ Hawes informed the Commission that Andrew Bennett, a Parkway Central Sophomore, was organizing a candlelight vigil honoring the victims of the Orlando, Florida shooting, and being held on Wednesday, June 15 at 7:00 p.m. on the front steps of Kirkwood City Hall.

## **Election of Officers**

Election of officers was held.

Motion was made by Amanda Sher and seconded by Morris Fletcher to elect Denis Hart as Chair. By show of hands all were in favor and the motion carried.

At this time Ron Hodges asked if the Commission should consider postponing the election of officers until all Commission members were in attendance with Denis Hart stating that he felt they should proceed since they had a quorum present.

Motion was made by Morris Fletcher and seconded by Ron Hodges to elect Robert Boyd as Vice Chair. By show of hands all were in favor and the motion carried.

Motion was made by Morris Fletcher and seconded by Ron Hodges to elect Amanda Sher as Secretary. By show of hands all were in favor and the motion carried.

## **Strategic Plan Reports**

A.3 Morris Fletcher had reviewed the HRC brochure and did not recommend any changes. He asked Commission members to contact him with suggestions they may have. A supply of brochures should be available in the lobby at city hall.

C.2 The essay contest was held. Collaboration with other organizations is ongoing.

C.3 It is recommended that Commissioners vote in September on candidates for the HRC award.

F.1 It was reported that the Human Rights Roundtable group meets a couple of times a year. It is the intention of the HRC to network with other organizations/groups.

I. It was noted that Chief Plummer had been invited to the June meeting.

As the disability survey has been completed, Denis Hart recommended that G. in the strategic plan be changed to: Collaborate with the City of Kirkwood in updating the ADA & Support Services website tab. Responsibility – 1) Create a user friendly index to present support service contacts, 2) Create a procedure to post services, 3) Report quarterly to the HRC. Responsibility -1 (Denis Hart and Amanda Sher), 2 – (Denis Hart and Amanda Sher), 3 – (Josh Lewis and Amanda Sher). Timeline – 1 (September), 2 (November) and 3 (February, May, August, November). At this time motion was made by Bob Boyd and seconded by Amanda Sher to approve the revision to G in the strategic plan as recommended. All in favor, motion carried.

## **Chief Plummer**

Chief Plummer attended the meeting at the request of the HRC members.

- Kirkwood officers go above normal standards for municipalities.
- Regarding the Kirkwood Police Department in the aftermath of the shootings at city hall, DOJ issues with the department were minor.
- Officers receive evaluations twice a year.
- Because of the high level performance of the city's officers, it is not felt that a community review board is needed.
- Regarding traffic stops, Chief Plummer explained that every police department and municipality is different. He also noted that the State of Missouri traffic stop report statistics do not reflect the number of individuals who are stopped that are passing through a municipality.
- There was discussion on the HRC Strategic Plan which calls for meeting with the police department in order to discuss concerns in a more relaxed atmosphere and a slower pace, outside of the HRC formal meeting. Specific reporting topics will be discussed and reported regularly to the HRC.

## **Board and Commission Guidelines**

Commission members requested the most recent copy be sent to them.

## **Other**

- Commission members were asked to take ownership of their assignments in the strategic plan.
- Commission members were asked to contact Denis Hart, Chair prior to inviting a speaker to a HRC meeting.
- There was discussion regarding inviting the winner of the HRC essay contest to read their essay at the MLK event which is held yearly at Kirkwood High School and to consider adding that to the essay contest rules.
- Denis Hart and Darnel Frost 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. It is the intention of Denis Hart to contact Romona Miller (R7) to request her assistance in trying to set up a meeting with the Superintendent, Tom Williams, as well as Principal, Mike Havener.
- Ron Hodges expressed concerns regarding the vandalism occurring at the park in Meacham Park and that he felt the violators should be held responsible, suggesting community service work.
- Morris Fletcher advised that the goal of Eliot Chapel group is for the City of Kirkwood police department to be a positive example for other municipalities regarding stops.

## **Visitor Comments**

Margaret Burdge stated that regarding the number of stops made by the police department that she felt there was always a place for improvement.

Janet Soleki described her interaction with the police department as being very professional.

Beth Griffin stated that she would like to know the number of complaints the police department receives weekly and/or monthly.

Lary Mohl stated that he felt body cameras could be a solution to assist in the complaint process with the police department.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the HRC will be held on July 12, 2016.

**Adjourn**

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

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Amanda Sher, Secretary