

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

July 12, 2016

6:30 p.m.

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

Present:

Robert Boyd, Vice Chair
Morris Fletcher
Denis Hart, Chair
Ron Hodges
Jill Johnson
Josh Lewis
Judy Moticka
William Winter

Absent:

Amanda Sher, Secretary

City Council Liaison:

Council Member Bob Sears - Absent

Chief Administrative Officer:

Russ Hawes

Other:

Kathie Valentine, Administration

Visitors:

Margaret Burdge, Larry Long

Roll Call

Roll call was taken with attendance reflected above.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Robert Boyd and seconded by William Winter to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2016 meeting as amended by Denis Hart. All in favor, motion carried.

Chief Administrative Officer Report, Russ Hawes

Russ Hawes thanked Denis Hart for the report on the Disability Survey that was presented at the July 7 City Council Work Session.

Strategic Plan Reports

A.1 – Amanda Sher was not present to make a report. Judy Moticka advised that Amanda Sher would like commission members to invite their Facebook friends to connect with the HRC Facebook page. It was requested that Beth von Behren create a link from the HRC webpage to their HRC Facebook page, and that the Facebook page also be promoted through the Eye on Kirkwood, E- News, etc.

A.4 – Nothing to report.

B.1 – Morris Fletcher and Jill Johnson advised that they have been attending meetings of the Kirkwood Policing Committee at Eliot Chapel and invited other HRC members to attend. A list of organizations that commissioners could consider participation in are listed on the last page of the strategic plan: Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association, Kirkwood Neighbors United, Regional HRC groups, and Missouri Commission on Human Rights. It was recommended that the Kirkwood Policing Committee be added to the list of organizations in the strategic plan.

B.3 – Chief Plummer attended the June meeting. It was suggested that Rev. Barbara Gadon, Eliot Chapel, be invited to the September meeting.

C.1 – Jill Johnson and Judy Moticka intend to bring ideas for presentations to the August meeting. It was noted that it is good to “piggy back” with other events that are being planned in the community such as the MLK event. There was discussion regarding contacting the drama department staff at the Kirkwood High School to suggest that students do a role playing exercise during a school assembly on traffic stops, reflecting what to do or not do in that situation. Motion was made by Jill Johnson and seconded by Ron Hodges to contact the drama department at the high school as well as the middle schools regarding the role playing exercise. All in favor, motion carried.

D.1 – William Winter spoke on his daughter’s involvement with city government in Pacific, MO and that he had given her a copy of the HRC brochure.

E.2 – Bob Boyd distributed a draft 2nd quarter report. It was requested that Bob Boyd be sent any changes or additions to the report.

Other

- Denis Hart asked that commission members be prepared each month to make their strategic plan report. He asked commission members to work on their report together and then decide who will make the report. If both members will be absent, he recommended that another commission member be asked to present the report.
- The Strategic Plan is a living document. If there is a need for a change, addition or deletion, please bring that to Denis Hart’s attention.
- Residents are welcome to come forward with human rights comments or concerns. If a community group would like to present before the HRC, Denis Hart asked that the request be brought to his attention, including the name of the group, their concerns or issues, time and date preferred. He will then contact them and confirm a date, time and the time allotted.
- Midwest Brail Volunteers and St. Louis ARC were suggested as possible presenters. Denis Hart asked that commission members come to the August meeting with additional suggestions for guest speakers. If they have handout material he will try to secure it prior to their presentation
- The commission members intend to continue their collaboration with the police department pursuant to its Strategic Plan and responsibilities.
- Ron Hodges circulated a flyer on Boys Hope Girls Hope and intends to provide 2 more information on the organization at the following meeting.
- Denis Hart intends to provide an updated copy of the strategic plan which should be sent to commission members via e-mail.
- Jill Johnson and Josh Lewis distributed a draft letter to be sent to the Missouri Commission on Human Rights in order to obtain information on the organization as well as requesting a possible coordination of efforts.

- The final two Hot Dog Dayz events will be held in July.
- Morris Fletcher advised that some members at Eliot Chapel are meeting to discuss the educational gap for minority students and suggested the commission invite members of the group to attend an upcoming meeting.
- After discussion, it was decided that comments and/or questions from citizens attending meeting can be made at the end of each meeting.
- It is thought that the training for Board and Commissions will be held in February or March 2017.
- Denis Hart suggested the commission invite previous HRC members to either the October or November meeting.
- Denis Hart and Ron Hodges intend to meet with Chief Plummer pursuant to Strategic Plan item I. to address specific issues.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the HRC will be held on August 9, 2016.

Adjourn

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

Amanda Sher, Secretary