

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

September 13, 2016

6:30 p.m.

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

Present:

Denis Hart
Bob Boyd
Morris Fletcher
Ron Hodges
Josh Lewis
Amanda Sher
William Winter
Jill Johnson
Judy Moticka

Absent:

City Council Liaison:

Council Member Bob Sears

Chief Administrative Officer:

Russ Hawes

Other:

Laurie Asche, Deputy City Clerk

Visitors:

Jeannie Webdell and Geoff Morrison

Roll Call

Roll call was taken with attendance reflected above.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Judy Moticka and seconded by William to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2016 Human Rights Commission meeting, as amended by Denis Hart. All in favor, motion carried.

Council Activities and Comments, Council Member Sears

Council Member Sears reported that public comments took place at the previous City Council meeting and Planning and Zoning Commission meeting regarding the Vianney baseball field.

Chief Administrative Officer Comments, Russ Hawes

None

Guest Introductions

None as both Jeannie Webdell and Geoff Morrison visited the HRC last month.

Strategic Plan Reports

C.2 – William Winter reported that he wants to get the ball rolling with the Essay Contest for 2017 and plans to encourage St. John Vianney and Ursuline Academy to be more involved.

William Winter also reported on the rededication of the basketball courts at Memorial Park in Meacham Park Saturday, September 3, 2016. Mayor Griffin, Park Board President Scott Stream, and Harriett Patton did the ribbon cutting. There was also participation from the Kirkwood High School marching band. Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes stated that the City of Kirkwood resurfaced the entire basketball court, as well as installing new baskets.

Ron Hodges questioned the success of the security cameras in the park. Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes stated that there are four new HD security cameras that were installed, but not sure how they are positioned. Denis Hart stated that he and Ron Hodges will speak with the Chief of Police at their meeting on Monday, September 19, 2016 about this issue.

C.3 – Denis Hart requested Ron Hodges and Amanda Sher provide backup information to all Commissioners on the two nominations: Walt Schoedel and Barbara Gadon, and any others that may be put forward, prior to the December HRC meeting.

F.1 – Denis Hart reported that he will be introducing Jill Johnson to the Regional HRC which includes the Ferguson HRC. The Kirkwood HRC has shared their Strategic Plan and language for Kirkwood's LGBT Ordinance with the Regional HRC.

Jill Johnson reported that she has been researching the Human Rights Conference in Kansas City.

G.1 – Denis Hart reported that the group that put together the Disabilities Survey will be meeting tomorrow to discuss putting together a user friendly index of services. Josh Lewis stated that the group should also consider including the Missouri Vocational Rehab.

I.1 – Denis Hart and Ron Hodges have prepared four basic categories that they will discuss with the Chief of Police on a regular basis. Ron Hodges stated that the traffic stop reports are not

numbered and questioned how many are actually turned in. Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes stated that he is open to suggestions on how to better track and handle the issue.

Update on the Good Stop/Bad Stop Dramatization with the KHS

Judy Moticka reported that she spoke with staff of Kirkwood High School and unfortunately they do not have availability at this time. Judy Moticka will reach out to one of her former students, whom is a teacher at Lindberg and to Stages and the Kirkwood Theatre Guild. Judy Moticka requests that if any Commission member has a contact with either to e-mail the information to her.

Update on the KHS Participation with the HRC

Denis Hart reported that he spoke with Assistant Principals Romona Miller and Mike Gavin regarding student participation on the HRC. Three or four students are interested in the opportunity to become involved with the HRC, but would like to be given a specific issue to focus on. Romona Miller and Mike Gavin will visit the HRC with the students in November.

Guest Speaker Presentation October 11, 2016 on Achievement Gap

Denis Hart reported that Assistant Superintendent Bryan Painter and School Board President Darnel Frost, Co-Chairs of the Report, have been invited to the October 11, 2016 HRC meeting to make a presentation regarding the Achievement Gap Report. Beth von Behren, Kirkwood's Public Informational Officer, has been contacted to advertise the presentation in the Webster-Kirkwood Times and on Kirkwood's website.

Achievement Gap Report

Morris Fletcher reported that he received a copy of the Achievement Gap Report and forwarded it to the rest of the HRC members. Denis Hart requested that the HRC members review the report prior to the October 11, 2016 meeting.

Ron Hodges stated that the Kirkwood Neighbors United group will be meeting at Eliot Chapel on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. and has a speaker who will address the preschool aspect of the Achievement Gap Report.

Past Commissioner Invitation to Attend the November 2016 Regular HRC Meeting

Denis Hart reported that he will "table" the invitation to invite past Commissioners to our meeting. He will e-mail past HRC commissioners and encourage their participation, soliciting their input on how they would like to interface with the current HRC.

Guest Observations/Comments

Geoff Morrison stated that the Good Stop/Bad Stop dramatization is a good idea and stated that similar dramatizations may be available on YouTube to help formalize a script.

Other

Ron Hodges stated that he was contacted and asked if the HRC would like a booth at the Greentree Festival and if they would like to participate in the Night Out in October. It was noted that the HRC would like to plan its Greentree involvement for next year and participate in a booth with other Commissions.

Denis Hart requested that Bob Boyd resend the 1st and 2nd quarter draft Annual Reports to all HRC Commissioners for review and comment. Denis Hart also reported that he will be attending the Mayor's Panel at the Shepard's Center in Glendale on Thursday, September 15, 2016 and report next month.

Bob Boyd requested an agenda item be added to the October 11, 2016 agenda regarding holding a seminar on disabilities.

Morris Fletcher reported that the St. Louis County Library will be hosting Author Colsten Whitehead on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Costen Whitehead will be speaking about his book, "The Underground Railroad".

Jill Johnson reported that the Community for Understanding and Healing (CFUH) [now known as "Hope"] Book Club will be meeting at Elliot Chapel on Thursday, September 15, 2016.

Next Meeting

The next meetings of the HRC will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 and Wednesday, November 9, 2016 to avoid election day.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Bob Boyd and seconded by Ron Hodges to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Amanda Sher, Secretary