



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
March 08, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.
CITY HALL | Main Level Conference Room

Members Present

Geoff Morrison, Chair
Judy Moticka, Vice Chair
Margie Palazzolo, Secretary
Carolyn Becker
Michelle Cole
Paul Ward
Jeannie Webdell

Council Liaison, Maggie Duwe
Staff Liaison, Russ Hawes

Other:
Jessica Winter, Administration

Members Absent

Bob Boyd
Ryan Luby
Mason Willi

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm by Chair Geoff Morrison.

II. Roll Call

Roll was taken by Margie Palazzolo with attendance reflected above.

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Paul Ward and seconded by Margie Palazzolo to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2022 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

IV. City Council Comments

Council Member Duwe reported that the upcoming Council election on April 5th is for 3 seats with 4 candidates (2 of whom are incumbents). The City Council Candidates Forum is on March 29th at 6 pm via Zoom and it will be run by the League of Women Voters. Aberdeen Heights is also hosting a Candidates Forum on March 28th. The first vote Council vote on adopting the Vision Zero program will take place at the March 17th meeting.

V. Chief Administrative Officer Comments

Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes shared that he was going to discuss Vision Zero but acknowledged that the topic had already been covered.

Geoff asked where the City is at the Grant's Trail extension. Russ indicated that a grant has been applied for to fund the \$10 million project. The grant has been applied for in two phases because it is likely to be more tenable for East-West Gateway, the metropolitan planning organization that administers federal funds in our area. The extension would lengthen the trail to end near the train station. The exact route has not been determined yet. Council Member Duwe shared that the Crestwood Plaza redevelopment has plans to make an extension to Grant's Trail that could lead even more people into downtown Kirkwood.

VI. Old Business

A. Denis Hart Award Presentation at April 21st Council Meeting

This presentation was postponed from February 17th due to inclement weather and is rescheduled for April 21st. Bob will be making the presentation and Geoff will be in attendance.

B. Annual Report Presentation at April 7th Council Meeting

Geoff will present the annual report to City Council by summary on April 7th.

C. One Author – One Kirkwood on April 6th at KPAC

Geoff indicated that the One Author – One Kirkwood event will be taking place on April 6th at the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center at 7 pm. He said the Human Rights Commission have been granted permission to have an information table at the event. Carolyn plans on attending and Nicole may be there.

Geoff asked Carolyn whether commissioners will need to assist with setting up tables for the event. Carolyn shared that there will be tables and she will follow-up to clarify if setup is required. Geoff suggested KPAC employees set up the venue around 4:00 pm. He also shared that for the HRC event in November at the KPAC 100 chairs were requested but 78 were placed. Registration is required beforehand.

D. Marlena Sheinbein update

Geoff spoke with Marlena on February 14 and sent her a follow-up letter asking her to apply to join the HRC as a commissioner. She said she would put in an application and there have been seven applicants that have applied.

E. Approve Calendar and Strategic Plan

Motion was made by Carolyn Becker and seconded by Michelle Cole to approve the Calendar and Strategic Plan. All in favor, motion carried.

F. Utility Bill Insert

Carolyn had cosmetic notes about a double space after “mental” and after “human.” Judy suggested making changes to the bottom of the insert to read: “To contact Kirkwood Human Rights Commission.” Geoff thanked Jeannie and Michelle for their work creating the insert.

Motion was made by Judy Moticka and seconded by Margie Palazzolo to accept the Utility Bill Insert with the above noted revisions. All in favor, motion carried.

G. Essay Contest

Geoff asked for any questions, impressions, discussions, comments, or frustrations the commissioners had after reading the submitted essays. Geoff shared that he is uncertain how many of the applicants see the HRC form outlining the essay rules. He suggested that next year’s form needs to highlight that specific information is required. Maggie asked if the instructions can indicate that submitted essays that do not include the requirements will be disqualified. There was discussion about what the requirements should be going forward and determined the applicant’s name, address, phone number, and email address will be required.

It was asked if this essay was part of an assignment required by the teachers. Judy believes the teachers that receive the essay entry information may present it to their students in their own way.

Geoff expressed his frustration that some of the essays did not respond to the prompts. He added that it did not seem like all of the essays had a second pair of eyes revising them.

Judy tallied each Commissioner’s top five vote. Those that received the most tallies are as follows: 13, 21, 61, 68. The commissioners will read the top four essays and will place their vote in preference order at the next meeting.

H. Employment Initiative

Geoff shared that he visited Fresh Thyme, Schnucks, and the Magic House to speak with management about the Employment Initiative program to promote the hiring of those with diverse abilities. Geoff received positive feedback from the new manager at the Kirkwood Schnucks, Eric

Pritchett. Geoff spoke with Mr. Pritchett today and was informed that the stickers provided to these businesses highlighting their support for inclusive hiring were being displayed at both entrances.

Geoff added that he also visited Kirkwood Audi, Suntrup Ford, Global Foods, and the Magic House. At the Magic House Geoff spoke with the CEO who indicated she would talk to the Human Resource Manager about participating in the initiative.

VII. New Business

A. Chiefs Meeting in Early April

Geoff stated the next meeting is on April 12th and the first quarter will need to be discussed in advance. He suggested meeting at 8 am on Friday, April 8th. Jeannie, Paul, and Carolyn will join Geoff.

B. Greentree Booth Sign-up

Geoff shared that he will contact the Community Center on April 1st and will ask to be moved to have the booth moved to a different location.

C. The School Board Candidates Forum

Geoff indicated the forum was held at the Keating Center at Kirkwood High and recorded on the district’s website. Geoff and Jeannie attended the forum. He recommended the commissioners look over the information on the website as this school board election is fraught with many human rights issues. He added that there are seven people on the ballot but only four—Judy Moticka, incumbent Mark Boyko, Jeff Mintzlaff, and Matt Losse—are actively campaigning. Noncognitive learning was discussed.

D. Kirkwood United Church of Christ

Geoff shared that Jeannie sent out an email about an educational program series they are hosting. This past Sunday Kirkwood School District’s Roberta McWoods talked about the district’s programs to expand diversity, equity, and inclusion.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2022 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm, at the City Hall, Main Level Conference Room.

- Essay winners will be decided.
- Information tables at Farmer’s Market in May or June.
- Route 66 on June 11.

IX. Adjourn

Motion was made by Michelle Cole and seconded by Paul Ward to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Margie Palazzolo, Secretary