



**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**  
July 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.  
**CITY HALL | Main Level Conference Room**

**Members Present**

---

Geoff Morrison, Chair  
Carolyn Becker, Vice Chair  
Margie Palazzolo, Secretary  
Jennifer Bean  
Michelle Cole  
Nicole Goldkamp  
David Hartung  
Jeanne Webdell

**Council Liaison**, Maggie Duwe  
**Staff Liaison**, Russ Hawes

**Other:**  
Jessica Winter, Administration

**Members Absent**

---

Paul Ward

- I. Call to Order – Geoff Morrison, Chair**  
Geoff called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.
- II. Introduction of New Commissioner – Jennifer Bean**  
Geoff welcomed New Commissioner, Jennifer Bean, to the Commission.
- III. Roll Call**  
Roll was taken by Margie Palazzolo with attendance reflected above.
- IV. Approval of Minutes**  
Motion was made by Carolyn Becker and seconded by David Hartung to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2022 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. City Council Comments**  
Council Member Duwe gave an update about construction along the east side of Kirkwood Road at the UMB and Commerce Bank locations. Demolition of the UMB location is underway and their temporary location is open on Clay until the James is completed at which time they will move into the new location. Part of the Commerce Bank parking lot is fenced off. The new location for Commerce will be in the new building once completed. More trees will be planted to replace the tree taken down on the Commerce lot.
- VI. Chief Administrative Officer Comments**  
Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes shared that the second train will begin on July 18 for the first time in over a year. Geoff asked if the construction on Geyer will be completed by Greentree. Russ responded that it should be completed by August

with the goal to have it open before the fall school season begins. A portion of the road will be open before then.

## VII. Visitor Welcome

## VIII. Old Business

### A. Parks and Recreation Trivia Night Fundraiser

Geoff is going to find out where the event fell short of their fundraising goal.

### B. Hot Dog Days Info Table

Geoff reported that there was good turnout at Monfort Park. The next event will be at Fillmore Park on July 29.

### C. One Author – One Kirkwood update

Carolyn shared that the planning meeting was held on June 16. She said that all library staff make author recommendations and cull down the list to a manageable number. Nine authors were selected and the committee narrowed it down to five authors listed in preference order: Viola Davis, Kal Penn, Isabella Munday, Charmaine Wilkerson, and tie between Morgan Talty and Sara Novic. The authors will be polled for their availability and their speaking fee. The budget for the event is \$6,000. The date will be discussed at the next meeting but the target is between the second week of April through mid-May. The location choice is KPAC. There will be a meeting after pricing and availability of the authors is determined.

### D. Women's Voices Raised Attainable Housing Project

Margie was unable to attend the Women's Voices Raised meeting on June 18. She was able to obtain the meeting minutes and will email them to the Commissioners. She added that the organization is going to change future meeting times from 3 pm to 7 pm but they will remain on Zoom. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 18 at 7 pm. They did present to Meacham Park and the Community for Understanding and Hope Book Club. They were well received at both places and enrolled new members from each group. Geoff will send the City Clerk's email address to the new Commissioners to schedule Sunshine Law training.

### E. Art Exhibit Subcommittee report

Geoff along with Carolyn, Michelle, and David began research on other Human Rights Committees around the country to find ideas for youth engagement. Geoff suggested renaming the subcommittee the Youth Engagement Subcommittee. Geoff researched HRCs in Missouri and Illinois and is awaiting responses from Carbondale, IL & Warrensburg, MO HRCs.

David did his research on Oregon, Massachusetts, Iowa, New York, and Florida. He said that much of what he found was the typical art project or murals. He added that Iowa has a Youth Council that does a service day. He had an idea that the KHRC could collaborate with the Kirkwood Youth Advisory Commission on a yearly project (a service project or something that takes place in the high school) to foster engagement with the Youth Advisory Commission and the school. Geoff advised that there is a Hands-on Kirkwood Day in October.

Michelle said she researched several cities because she knew the others were looking at states and found some municipal HRCs had liaisons from middle and high schools attending meetings. Nicole stated that there are curriculum coordinators at each of the education levels that could be good place to start the search for liaisons at the schools. Maggie has ideas for how the Youth Advisory Commission can organize their Boards & Commissions representatives and shared that she is excited about the group of seven new members. David suggested having a KHRC representative attend the Youth Advisory Commission meetings (scheduled the first and third Tuesdays every month at the KPAC) as an alternative. Geoff asked Maggie how the voter registration event conducted by the Youth Advisory Commission at the Train Station in May went. She said they registered three people.

Carolyn sought information on California, Maine, and Florida. She found much of the same information as what others found. She found in Los Angeles that the youth formed their own Human Rights Committee. She expanded her search to include human rights activities for youth when she came across the website for Youth for Human Rights International, which provides teaching tools. This lead her to look at the United Nations website for human rights and youth activities. She found a wealth of curriculum materials, activities, teaching tools, and teaching guides that are all free. She found that International Human Rights Day is December 10. She proposed that instead of having activities that are limited to the students that participate, the HRC could coordinate with the schools to have an impact on as many students as are in the school district by celebrating International Human Rights Day in an effort to educate K-12 students about human rights. Geoff added that the school semester ends on Wednesday, December 21, and teachers and administrators would have to vet everything proposed here. Michelle shared that the Kirkwood School District is already educating on human rights topics and felt proposing the celebration of International Human Rights Day to the curriculum would complement what they are already doing.

Geoff suggested the Commissioners continue looking for ideas for the next meeting.

**F. Speaker Event Subcommittee report**

It was discussed that Jeanne and Geoff met with Mel Lambert from the Kirkwood Library on June 22 at the library regarding the joint speaker event. Geoff wrote a letter to Mr. Bostic and is awaiting a reply. Geoff contacted Mel who said to wait another week to see if he receives a response before emailing Bobby Bostic. Jeanne suggested tying it into Human Rights Day. Geoff said the event could be scheduled at KPAC at the end of November after Bobby is released from prison or can go into January.

**G. Proposal that "Group Award" be given similar to Hart Award**

Jeanne began by saying the group award really should have been named a program award or group program award. Her idea was to bring recognition to a program a group is doing as opposed to by individual people. She acknowledged that other Commissioners were hesitant to give an award but would like there to be a way for these groups to be recognized. She suggested using the HRC Facebook page or using a newsletter to recognize groups in Kirkwood.

Geoff asked for examples of the kinds of groups that could be recognized. Jeanne responded that: the Baptist Church has Hands on Kirkwood; the Methodist Church has a program called Lifewise that provides training for how to manage money and homeownership, as well as offering a tutoring program; Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice; the Kirkwood Social Justice Coalition focuses on bringing groups together to work on justice issues, particularly those involving racism in Kirkwood. Russ shared that the Hands on Kirkwood program is a far-reaching effort that involves many churches and organizations throughout the city and is organized through the Baptist church.

Geoff asked if nominations will be solicited or if the HRC will decide on its own. Jeanne agreed that was a decision that would need to be made. Geoff then asked if there was going to be a time limit on the award. Jeanne responded that she followed the guidelines of the Denis Hart Award but is not opposed to modifying the time limit.

Geoff asked for Commissioners to assist Jeanne in drawing up a couple proposals that set the parameters of the recognition program. Nicole and Michelle volunteered to help. Nicole said the HRC is trying to promote and make these groups visible to the community in a different way.

There was further discussion about different methods for promoting HRC initiatives outside of creating a newsletter. Jeanne said the library has a directory of agencies and she thinks the HRC could prepare a similar list of known social justice groups located or working in Kirkwood.

## **IX. New Business**

### **A. Review of Hart Award Guidelines**

Geoff said the HRC's calendar requires discussion about the award guidelines. Michelle suggested changing "physical or mental disability" to "diverse abilities." The wording change will be made and a vote will be held at the August meeting.

### **B. Review of 6-Month Report**

Motion was made by Michelle Cole and seconded by Margie Palazzolo to accept the 6-Month Report as composed by Carolyn Becker. All in favor, motion carried.

### **C. Report of Subcommittee meeting with Chief Murphy on July 8th**

Data supplied by the Police Department and the summary of the meeting discussion were distributed. Geoff specified that the VCR information would not be added to the 2021 board of the Attorney General's website. Geoff received seven pages of information from Chief Murphy and he will report at the next meeting how the numbers compare from last year

## **X. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2022 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm, at the City Hall, Main Level Conference Room. Topics will include: A) Subcommittee report regarding the Speaker Event; B) Subcommittee report regarding Youth Engagement

Project; C) Accept Hart Award Guidelines/Subcommittee to publicize the award; D) Sign-up for Greentree Festival Booth. Geoff will send out time slots the week before the August meeting for volunteer sign-up for 2- or 3-hour shifts on Saturday, September between 9 am – 7 pm and Sunday, September 18 between 10 am – 5 pm.

**XI. Miscellaneous**

Jeanne shared that there is an opportunity to volunteer at the Back-to-School event in Meacham Park on Saturday, August 20 from 12:00 – 3:00 pm. Ryan Luetkemeyer is an intern at the Webster-Kirkwood Times that will be doing an article for the newspaper about the KHRC. Jeanne suggested that a new photo of the Commission be taken.

**XII. Adjourn**

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

---

Margie Palazzolo, Secretary