



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.
CITY HALL | Main Level Conference Room

Members Present

Geoff Morrison, Chair
Carolyn Becker, Vice Chair
Margie Palazzolo, Secretary
Michelle Cole
David Hartung
Jeannie Webdell

Council Liaison, Maggie Duwe

Other:

Jessica Winter, Administration
Morrigan Carey, Youth Advisory Council
Scarlet Adams, Youth Advisory Council

Members Absent

Staff Liaison, Russ Hawes
Jennifer Bean

Nicole Goldkamp
Paul Ward

I. Roll Call

Roll was taken by Margie Palazzolo with attendance reflected above. Geoff Morrison introduced and welcomed the new Youth Advisory Council Representatives, Morrigan Carey and Scarlet Adams, to the HRC. Geoff announced that Nicole would be absent because she had her baby.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Michelle Cole and seconded by David Hartung to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2022 meeting with the following changes: 1) to reflect Nicole Goldkamp's absence; and, 2) to change "were" to "where" in the second sentence of the last paragraph on page three. All in favor, motion carried.

III. City Council Comments

Council Member Duwe reported that the Green Tree Festival is on-track for the weekend of September 16-18 with the parade on Saturday morning. She said she is excited about the new full appointment of the Youth Advisory Council. She shared that there were sophomores through seniors appointed and it is exciting to see how much the group has grown.

IV. Chief Administrative Officer Comments

Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes was absent.

V. Old Business

A. Hot Dog Days event on 9/19 and Backpack Event on 8/20

Geoff attended the last Hot Dog event at Meacham Memorial Park on 8/19 and reported that it was not well attended. He and Jeanne were at the Backpack event the following day on 8/20. Jeanne said there was a nice crowd, good weather, and

a petting zoo for the children but the community group tables did not have many visitors.

B. WVR Attainable Housing Project (Palazzolo)

Margie stated that she attended the last virtual meeting and explained that the group focused on the topic of the generational issue of real estate has been a wealth builder but some populations do not have the ability due to discrimination with FHA loans. She said many people within these demographics can make the mortgage payments but do not have families that are to help them fund what is needed for a down payment. She said that Karen Coulson, WVR member, went to a FAM (thefamstl.org) presentation by the St. Louis Reconciliation Network located at Cortex in midtown. FAM is a two-year-old small non-profit that helps acquire grants for black St. Louisans to make a down payment to purchase their own home. So far, they have raised several million dollars and helped 44 families buy homes. She added that Kara Wurtz suggested they get two Kirkwood Council Members to put forth an ordinance stating that landlords can't discriminate on the source of income. Amy Nasha, a local real estate agent, said that landlords are afraid of Section 8 vouchers. They need to be educated and there is a cap on how much a landlord can make. There is an extremely long wait (around two months) for starting to get their rent. They suggested there needs to be a voice for attainable housing for the next time a developer proposes a project for Kirkwood. WVR will not be making any further presentations until they have the data from the housing study. Margie said the next meeting is not until October. Geoff said that there is no way to force landlords into the federal program accepting Section 8 housing.

C. One Author – One Kirkwood (Becker)

Caroline shared that Morgan Talty, author of the book, "Night of the Living Rez," was selected for the One Author – One Kirkwood event, which will be held at KPAC on Tuesday, May 23. The library will have his book on several of their book club lists and will create a book club packet available. Geoff said the HRC had an information table at the last event and would like to have one again at the upcoming event.

D. Speaker Event on 12/12 (Morrison)

Geoff passed the flyer around for the Speaker Event for Bobby Bostic, which will be held on December 12 at 7 pm at KPAC. He shared that Mr. Bostic was sentenced to 241 years in prison for crimes he committed when he was 16 and would be paroled on November 9. He believes Mr. Bostic will read from several of his books and take questions.

E. Group Recognition Proposal (Webdell)

Michelle handed out documents that covered the brainstorming session she, Jeanne, Nicole, and David had regarding the group recognition proposal. Michelle said they talked about combining the speaker series and this group recognition because of the small turnout to last year's event. The speaker would draw the audience and the groups could be acknowledged as well as having a platform to relay their organization's mission to a like-minded crowd. David added that it could also serve as a networking opportunity with like-minded people and to support each other. Michelle stated this would be more of an acknowledgment to let them

know the HRC cares about what they are doing for the community by inviting them to this event. There is the possibility for more than one event each year and it could start small and grow with time. Geoff suggested that the proposal be tabled with more discussion at the next meeting. No one was opposed.

F. Heart-to-Heart Tutoring Presentation on 8/9

Jeanne attended a Heart-to-Heart presentation on August 9 and said 27 tutors met teachers from Robinson Elementary School on August 31. There will be 18 students being tutored at the Lemmie building and 13 students being tutored at Robinson. They hope to have their first tutoring sessions on October 5.

G. Miscellaneous

- a. Geoff confirmed with David that he and Jennifer completed the Sunshine Law training with City Clerk, Laurie Asche.
- b. Geoff said he spoke with Parks & Recreation Director, Kyle Henke, about the Trivia Night they held in June. He said that 150 out of 200 tables were filled, seven of the eleven trivia rounds were sponsored, and they raised \$8,000 of their \$10,000 goal. A trivia night is already being planned for next year.
- c. Geoff shared that two new Employment Initiative Stickers were recently given to the Greek Kitchen and Great Harvest Bread Company. The Greek Kitchen has five employees with diverse abilities and received their sticker. An announcement will appear in the Eye on Kirkwood in October.
- d. Geoff stated that the press release for the Denis Hart Award was published in the Kirkwood-Webster Times. There had been no nominations as of the day of this meeting. Nominations will be accepted until November 14.

VI. New Business

A. Green Tree Booth Staffing

Geoff stated that the HRC booth at the Green Tree Festival is in the same location as last year. There are two parking passes available and coordination of handing off the passes to the next volunteers staffing the booth was discussed. Geoff will be there early to prepare the booth, which will have the HRC banner, multiple handouts, and a bowl of candy.

B. Police Open House on Saturday, October 1 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Geoff informed the HRC that he will be out of town October 1-8 and asked for volunteers to attend the Police Open House in his absence. Margie and Jeanne agreed to attend the event.

C. Quarterly Subcommittee meeting with Police Chief Murphy

Additionally, Geoff asked for volunteers to attend the one hour quarterly meeting with Chief Murphy on Friday, October 7 at 8 am. He said Paul usually attends these meetings. Jeanne said she could attend and David volunteered to be a backup.

D. Youth Engagement possibilities (Hartung)

David informed the HRC members that the Kirkwood High School Student Council disbanded in 2020 and had replaced it with class leadership groups. He said he

reached Kirkwood High Assistant Athletic Director Brad Sutterer about possibilities for engagement with the class leadership groups and he was open to passing along proposed ideas to the groups. Morigan added that Ryan Luby let him know about a new club at Kirkwood High called the Social Justice Club. He suggested this new club would be a good one for the HRC to collaborate with as well.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2022 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm, at the City Hall, Main Level Conference Room. The meeting topics will include: A) Subcommittee report of meeting with Chief Murphy; B) The quarterly report covering July, August, and September from Carolyn; and, C) A potential presentation by the Kirkwood High School Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA).

VIII. Adjourn

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

Margie Palazzolo, Secretary