



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
CITY HALL | Main Level Conference Room

Members Present

Geoff Morrison, Chair
David Hartung, Vice Chair
Carolyn Becker
Nicole Goldkamp
Jeanne Webdell
Paul Ward

Youth Advisory Commission:
Scarlet Adams

Council Liaison, Maggie Duwe

Other:
Jessica Winter, Administration

Members Absent

Michelle Cole
Kelley Harris

Staff Liaison, Russ Hawes

I. Roll Call

Roll was taken by David with attendance reflected above.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, February 13

Motion was made by Jeanne and seconded by David to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2024 meeting with a revision of New Business, Section F to change the second and third sentences to read "The forum will presumably focus on the attainable housing shortage in Kirkwood. The upcoming School Board Election, with Laura Hepburn, David Davis, and Jean Marie Andrews as candidates was discussed as an upcoming event." All in favor, motion carried.

B. Special Meeting on Sunday, February 18 (Community Center

Motion was made by Carolyn and seconded by Nicole to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2024 special meeting with the following revisions: 1) Section III, sentence two – change "including" to "included;" 2) Section III, last sentence – correct "City;s" to "City's;" and, 3) Section V, first sentence – revise "designer" to "designing." All in favor, motion carried.

III. City Council Comments

Council Member Duwe articulated the City Council's concerted efforts to accomplish significant tasks ahead of the upcoming election scheduled for April 2nd.

IV. Chief Administrative Officer Comments

Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes was absent.

V. Old Business

A. Presentation of Hart Award to T. Ptacek at February 15 Council Meeting

Geoff, Carolyn, and Kelley attended the February 15 Council Meeting where Tom Ptacek was presented the Hart Award. The presentation went well and there was a nice article about the event in the Webster-Kirkwood Times.

B. Information Table at Black Heritage Celebration on February 17

Geoff reported that four Commissioners were actively engaged at an information table during the well-attended event at Mudd's Grove. Carolyn commented on the intriguing aspect of the bus tour, though she and Geoff expressed a preference for more favorable weather conditions.

C. Information Table at One Author, One Kirkwood Event on February 21

Carolyn commended the excellence of the event moderated by Alvin Reed, describing it as a relaxed dialogue with the gifted author, Brendan Slocumb. She noted the great attendance at the Ross Theater in KPAC. A grant awarded to the author or his publishing company enabled the distribution of 300 copies of his book to event attendees. Geoff, citing the historical spring scheduling of the 'One Author, One Kirkwood' events, asked Carolyn about the shift to October and February in recent years and whether there were intentions to revert to a spring timetable. Carolyn clarified that planning for the subsequent event has not yet begun and she was not aware of their scheduling plans for the upcoming year.

D. Approval of Utility Flyer

Motion was made by David and seconded by Carolyn to approve the utility flyer as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

E. Essay Contest Schedule Revision

Geoff reminded Commissioners that their top five essays are due at the upcoming April 9 meeting.

VI. New Business

A. Discrimination Ordinance Subcommittee

Geoff acknowledged a reply from City Attorney John Hessel, relayed through CAO Russ Hawes, concerning the suggested modifications to the Housing Discrimination Ordinance put forth by the KHRC. A subcommittee comprising

David, Nicole, Carolyn, and Geoff will convene virtually via Zoom prior to the end of March to formulate a response.

B. Election of New Secretary

Geoff said that although Carolyn volunteered to accept the position as Secretary, he wanted to postpone the election to ensure the participation of all Commission members in the voting process. Carolyn added that this may also allow another member with a longer appointment to the Commission to volunteer for this position.

C. Presentation of 2023 Annual Report to Council on March 21 Meeting

Geoff announced his unavailability due to a scheduled vacation during the upcoming Council Meeting, and David consented to represent the Commission by presenting the KHRC Annual Report to the Mayor and City Council. Geoff also reminded the Commissioners about the meeting's start time of 7:00 p.m. and encouraged their attendance, suggesting they wear their nametags.

D. Review/Approval of Strategic Plan and Calendar

Motion was made by Nicole and seconded by Carolyn with the revision of Section A, Number 3 to read: "Make available a list of community resources for human rights and social justice issues. Update as necessary." All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by David and seconded by Carolyn of the Commission Calendar as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

E. Selection of Subcommittee for 1st Quarter Meeting with Chief Murphy in early April

Geoff communicated with Chief Murphy to arrange a meeting in early April. Chief Murphy confirmed his availability for either Friday, April 5 or Monday, April 8 at 9:00 a.m. After consideration, David, Geoff, Nicole, and Jeanne collectively agreed to convene with Chief Murphy on Friday, April 5.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2024 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm, at the City Hall, Main Level Conference Room. Items for the next meeting will include: Review of Essay Contest entries/Commissioners' selections of top 5 essays; Report of the Meeting with Chief Murphy; Review of the First Quarter Report; and, Selection of dates for information tables at the Farmer's Market in May.

VIII. Adjourn

Before adjourning the meeting, an announcement was made that the League of Women Voters would be holding a Candidate Forum for the Kirkwood School Board candidates on Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Kirkwood High School in the Keating Center.

Motion was made by Carolyn and seconded by Nicole to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

David Hartung, Vice Chair