



**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**CITY HALL | Main Level Conference Room**

**Members Present**

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Geoff Morrison, Chair  
David Hartung, Vice Chair  
Carolyn Becker  
Michelle Cole  
Jeanne Webdell

**Youth Advisory Commission:**  
Scarlet Adams

**Staff Liaison,** Russ Hawes

**Other:**  
Jessica Winter, Administration

**Members Absent**

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Nicole Goldkamp  
Paul Ward

**Council Liaison,** Mark McLean

**I. Roll Call**

Roll was taken by Carolyn with attendance reflected above.

**II. Approval of May 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made by Michelle and seconded by David to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2024 meeting as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

**III. City Council Comments**

Council Member McLean was not present to offer comments.

**IV. Chief Administrative Officer Comments**

Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes shared praise to the HRC indicating the presentation at the Council Meeting was well-received and highlighted the HRC's tradition of recognizing students for their achievements with the Annual Essay Contest.

**V. Visitor Welcome**

**VI. Old Business**

**A. HRC Proposal to revise Discrimination Ordinances**

Russ indicated there has been no movement with the proposal at this time due to the impending change with the City Attorney.

**B. Annual Essay Contest**

1. Selected Essays delivered to School District Superintendent on May 24
2. Media Coverage – Press Releases appeared in 5/23 and 5/3 Webster-Kirkwood Times
3. Awards Presentation at 6/6 Council Meeting

Geoff, David, Carolyn, Jeannie, and Paul attended the June 6<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting where Geoff presented the awards to the Essay Contest Winners. A photo of the Essay Contest Winners, HRC Commissioners, and Mayor Gibbons will be published in the Eye on Kirkwood at the end of June.

**C. Information Tables**

1. Farmers' Market on 5/18

Michelle and Nicole volunteered at the Information Table at the Farmers' Market on the morning of Saturday, May 18.
2. Carbs and Guitars Breakfast on 5/8

Geoff said about 300 people attended the fundraising benefit held at Firehouse #2. Despite the morning rain, it was well attended.
3. Hot Dog Events at City parks on 6/14 and 6/21

Geoff will attend both June Hot Dog Events and will have the Kirkwood Youth Advisory Committee (KYAC) flyers there with the intention of handing them out to parents to get their child/children involved. The event on 6/14 will be at Walker Park and the event on 6/21 is in the Greenbriar subdivision in Monfort Park. Geoff added that he received an email from Officer Baldrige letting Geoff know that the Police Open House will be on Saturday, October 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and an information table has been reserved for the HRC.

**VII. New Business****A. Speaker Event Subcommittee Report**

David, Michelle, and Geoff had a virtual meeting to discuss potential topics and Paul was unable to attend. They decided to focus on the 10th anniversary of Michael Brown's murder and the Ferguson unrest as their discussion topic. They plan to invite members of the Ferguson Commission as panelists and possibly have Alvin Reed as a moderator. Potential candidates include Gabe Gore, Rashid Aldridge, Reverend Starsky Wilson Wilson, and Richard McClure. David reached out to Gabe Gore and has a contact with Worldwide Technology who may be able to help with invitations for Richard McClure. Geoff does not personally know Rich McCort, but knows he is associated with a consulting company. The

event is tentatively scheduled for September 18th at KPAC's black box space. The theme will be "Ferguson 10 years after." The panel discussion will focus on what has changed, what hasn't, and what new/old problems still exist in Ferguson. David plans on having another virtual meeting before the next Commission meeting to discuss further details. Sign language interpreters will be needed for any events.

**B. Select Subcommittee to meet with Chief Murphy on Wed, July 10 Re: Regular Topics and 2023 Vehicle Stop Report**

Geoff suggested selecting a committee to meet with Chief Murphy on Wednesday, July 10 at 8 am. This meeting will cover regular topics and the 2023 vehicle stop report. Due to the 4th of July holiday, the meeting was rescheduled from its usual date. The results of the meeting will be presented in August's report. David expressed interest in attending, and Jeanne offered if needed. Four people are allowed to attend and Geoff will see if Nicole or Paul would like to join.

**C. Select Subcommittee to meet with Clayton Equity Commission**

Geoff began the discussion about selecting a subcommittee who will meet with Clayton Equity Commission (last met in August). No definite time was chosen yet, but it has been a year so it is a good time to schedule a meeting. Carolyn and David are interested in attending, Michelle may also join depending on date. There may be four commissioners in attendance if Nicole is available. There was discussion about when to hold the meeting - potentially after the next meeting in July or between now and then

**D. Election of Officers**

Motion was made by Geoff and seconded by Carolyn to nominate David as Chair of the Commission. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by David and seconded by Carolyn to nominate Geoff as temporary Vice-Chair of the Commission until new Commissioners are appointed. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by Geoff and seconded by David to nominate Carolyn as Secretary of the Commission. All in favor, motion carried.

**E. Filling of vacancies on HRC**

Geoff asked Russ about upcoming nominations for the HRC. Paul indicated that Mayor Gibbons mentioned considering former Kirkwood School Board President Ben Clark for a role in the Commission. Geoff or David will seek

assistance from City Clerk Laurie Asche to gather information on potential nominees.

**VIII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2024 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm, at the City Hall, Main Level Conference Room. Items for the next meeting will include: an update on the Speaker Event; an update on the Discrimination Ordinances; review of the Second Quarter Report; and, Review of the Hart Award Guidelines and Nomination Outreach.

**IX. Adjourn**

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

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Carolyn Becker, Secretary