**KIRKWOOD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**October 8, 2019**

**6:30 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Amanda Sher.

**Present Absent**

Bob Boyd, Vice Chair Josh Lewis

Verneda Carrier Judy Moticka, Secretary

Geoff Morrison

Amanda Sher, Chair

Ronda Wallace

Paul Ward

William Winter

**Council Liaison** Maggie Duwe - absent

**Staff Liaison** Russ Hawes

**Other** Kathie Valentine, City of Kirkwood

Lydia Cohen, Olivia Silvey, Page Emerson (Kirkwood High School Coalition)

 Casey Stark (Kirkwood High School Gay Straight Alliance)

**Roll Call**

Roll call was taken by Bob Boyd with attendance reflected above.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by William Winter and seconded by Geoff Morrison to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2019 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

**City Council Liaison Comments**

Council Member Duwe was not in attendance at the meeting. Amanda Sher noted that going forward, the Commission should not be meeting on religious holidays.

**Chief Administration Officer Comments**

Russ Hawes commented that he appreciated Amanda Sher meeting with himself and City Attorney John Hessel regarding the Sunshine Law.

**Chair Remarks**

Amanda Sher asked Commissioners to review their contact information on the current KHRC roster. She advised that she intends to check for e-mails in the evening, and asked Commissioners to text her if a message was urgent.

The Kirkwood Police Department Open House had been held the previous Saturday. It is the intention of the Commission to set up a KHRC table at the 2020 open house.

As David Bennett will be discussing the book discussion with the KHRC at the November meeting, the “Community” by Peter Block book discussion will be postponed until February 2020.

New Business has been added as an agenda item in order to allow time for Commissioners to bring up things they would like to discuss with the Commission. If an item is thought to take more than five minutes to discuss, it may be added to an upcoming agenda.

It is the intention of the Chair to limit the number of agenda items to 15. As there are 12 standing agenda items, only three additional items should be added to an agenda, and if a speaker is scheduled, the number of additional agenda items should be limited to two.

**Strategic Plan Reports**

A.1 – Judy Moticka and Amanda Sher continue posting on the KHRC Facebook page. It was noted that the letter regarding the importance of diversity, inclusion, and equity that had been submitted to the Webster-Kirkwood Times had been published.

A.3 – No new Neighborhood Caretaker Forms had been submitted that would be a concern of the KHRC.

A.4 – Bob Boyd suggested that A.4 be removed from the KHRC Strategic Plan as the Kirkwood Public Library has developed a list of community resources. Amanda Sher suggested that the Commission discuss this removal at the KHRC Strategic Planning Session offsite meeting tentatively scheduled in January.

B.6 – A booth at the Kirkwood Greentree Festival had been set up and staffed by the Commission. It was thought that people who stopped by the booth were curious about the work of the KHRC. A number of people took a copy of the Implicit Bias handout. Verneda Carrier reported that a meeting of the Kirkwood Social Justice Coalition was scheduled on Sunday, October 13. Next year, the group intends to hold a symposium on social justice issues at Kirkwood United Methodist Church.

E.3 – Bob Boyd distributed a copy of the KHRC 3rd Quarter Report and asked Commissioners to email him with changes and/or additions.

H.2 – A copy of the Kirkwood Police Department Quarterly Report for the period July 1 – September 30, 2019 was provided. Geoff Morrison reported that Police Officer Yvonne Bonner resigned due to health issues and that the department is currently recruiting for that position. No complaints had been received by the department this quarter. One use of the Taser was reported. Training is scheduled every six months. Officers receive email notifications on their training status in October. When available, Geoff Morrison offered to forward the report to the KHRC, and Amanda Sher requested that it be included as a handout when the next meeting packet is mailed. Chief Murphy suggested that they also begin tracking other police department staff as well, such as Dispatchers and Clerks. Ronda Wallace asked what the biggest obstacle for hiring is with Geoff Morrison responding a shortage of individuals interested in being an officer. Larry Mohl (We Can) recently met with Chief Murphy in order to discuss changes in Ferguson. There was a short discussion regarding the Kirkwood School District asking that body cameras not be used on district property.

I.1 – Amanda Sher, Geoff Morrison, Judy Moticka and Ronda Wallace intend to meeting with Dr. Condon in November. A meeting of the Alliance for Interracial Dignity is scheduled on October 10 at 7 p.m. at the Webster Groves Christian Church. A meeting of Bridges to Racial Understanding is scheduled to be held on October 13.

**Kirkwood High School Coalition (Lydia Cohen, Olivia Silvey, Aleah Bingham)**

Members of the Kirkwood High School Coalition spoke regarding their goal of inclusiveness, with a focus on women’s’ issues in our society. The group intends to hold a feminine hygiene drive in November. During the Winter, the group intends to hold a dress/clothing drive for a school in Panama. In the Spring, the group is holding a Sexual Assault Awareness Week with speakers, bathroom flyer postings, and ultimately providing an open environment to communicate regarding the topic. When asked how the Commission could help with their efforts, it was suggested that the KHRC can help by raising awareness in the community of the group’s activities. Amanda Sher offered to promote through the KHRC Facebook page.

**Kirkwood High School Gay Straight Alliance**

Casey Stark spoke on behalf of the Kirkwood High School Gay Straight Alliance. The group’s goal is to raise awareness around LGBTQ issues. He noted that members lobby in Jefferson City each year. The group also promotes and participates in the Day of Silence, a student-led national event that brings attention to anti-LGBTQ name-calling, bullying, and harassment in schools. Members of the group plan to attend the next Kirkwood School District School Board meeting being held on October 21st at 7 p.m. where a situation regarding lack of confidentiality between students/counselors/parents is scheduled to be discussed. Amanda Sher offered to promote the group on the KHRC Facebook page.

**KHRC Award Re-naming**

Amanda Sher asked Commissioners for their input regarding pros and cons of renaming the KHRC Award for Excellence to the Denis Hart KHRC Award for Excellence.

* Bob Boyd stated that he was in favor of renaming the award in honor of Denis Hart who had worked hard during his tenure on the Commission.
* Geoff Morrison agreed, stating that Denis Hart was instrumental in the work of the Diverse-Abilities Sub-Committee.
* Paul Ward stated that to him, it is not an issue of qualification, but rather setting up a procedure for renaming the award for future Commissioners to refer to. Bob Boyd agreed.
* Geoff Morrison added that what a future Commission does in the future is out of their hands.
* William Winter stated that to him it looked like they were awarding themselves.

Motion was then made by Bob Boyd and seconded by Ronda Wallace to rename the KHRC Award for Excellence to the Denis Hart KHRC Award for Excellence. The motion passed with William Winter opposed.

It was noted that the award criteria should be discussed at the next Strategic Planning Session with Verneda Carrier questioning as to why they were voting now when they intend to discuss the procedure in January.

**KHRC Diverse-Abilities Subcommittee**

Verneda Carrier reported that she attended the recent Chamber After Hours event and that it was her impression that Peg Weathers was still interested in the initiative.

At this time, Amanda Sher advised that after meeting with Russ Hawes and John Hessel regarding the Sunshine Law, which the Commission is required to abide by, it appears that the Commission needs more training about the governing laws, particularly as it relates to the Diverse-Abilities Subcommittee, which includes non-commissioners as members. As a result, it is thought that it would be best to pause the work of the subcommittee until the training occurs. Amanda Sher requested that the subcommittee not conduct any additional work or hold meetings until that time.

It was noted that work on the disabilities survey was initially being led by members of Kirkwood Neighbors United. Denis Hart joined the group, and when KNU stopped working on the initiative, Denis thought it would be best if the KHRC became involved. At that time, Denis created the subcommittee.

**Symposium**

Bob Boyd noted that Alisa Warren of the Missouri Human Rights Commission has not been responding to his messages. Bob suggested, and the Commission concurred, that the symposium should be postponed until 2020.

**Art Exhibit**

Art work is due on November 1 with the opening scheduled on November 3 at the Kirkwood Public Library. Mayor Griffin is scheduled to give the opening remarks.

**Training Opportunities**

City Attorney John Hessel will provide training on the Sunshine Law at the December meeting. Amanda Sher recommended that Commissioners read the Sunshine Law and KHRC ordinance prior to the December meeting. Training will be the only item on the December agenda. All Commissioners are asked to be in attendance.

**New Business**

Verneda Carrier reported that a dinner will be held at the 1st Baptist Church of Meacham Park on November 1 at 6:30 p.m. honoring past and present pioneers from the community of Meacham Park. $40/person, $75/couple.

Amanda Sher asked that when referring to the Commission it should be called the Kirkwood Human Rights Commission. She asked that new name badges could be purchased for Commissioners.

Roberts Rules or Order will be discussed at the November meeting.

Ronda Wallace spoke regarding Moms of Meacham. The group is asking for donations for its annual Christmas toy giveaway. Commissioners were asked to bring a toy to the November meeting. Ronda Wallace offered to email information to Commissioners.

**Meeting Updates**

David Bennett will be placed on the November agenda.

**Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the KHRC is scheduled to be held on November 12, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., Kirkwood City Hall, Main Level Conference Room.

**Adjourn**

Motion was made by William Winter seconded by Ronda Wallace to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

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 Judy Moticka, Secretary