

KIRKWOOD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes
May 11, 2021
6:30 p.m.

Under Section 610.015 of the Missouri Sunshine Law provides that members of the Human Rights Commission who are not physically present can participate and vote on all matters when an emergency exists and the nature of the emergency is stated in the minutes.

The U.S. and the world, is in a state of emergency due to the Coronavirus--Covid-19. Therefore, members of the Human Rights Commission can elect to participate in this meeting electronically for the public health and safety of each other and the general public.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Amanda Sher.

Present

Carolyn Becker
Bob Boyd
Michelle Cole
Judy Moticka, Vice Chair
Geoff Morrison, Secretary
Margie Palozollo
Amanda Sher, Chair
Jeannie Webdell

Absent

Paul Ward

Council Liaison

Maggie Duwe

Staff Liaison

Russ Hawes

Other

Kim Sansegraw, Administration

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Geoff Morrison with attendance reflected above.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Bob Boyd and seconded by Carolyn Becker to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2021 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

City Council Comments

Council Member Duwe reported Council will be discussing appointments for boards and commissions in their upcoming work session.

Council Member Duwe thanked Amanda Sher for her hard work and contribution to the KHRC.

Chief Administrative Officer Comments

Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes reported that City Council is working to meet in person possibly in June without an audience. The meeting will be viewable via Zoom. Commission meetings may begin meeting in person afterwards with successful implementation.

Geoff questioned if the Youth Advisory Commission ordinance had passed and how the members of the Youth Advisory Commission are selected. Russ stated the ordinance had

passed and Council Member Duwe mentioned the members apply to become a member and are appointed by the council with input from the youth commission officers.

Employment Initiative Update

Amanda reported that KHRC visited SBD and went live with the Employment Initiative program. Amanda suggested to contact Donna Poe to submit the Employment Initiative article in the monthly e-newsletter.

Amanda attempted to contact Peg Weathers with the Chamber of Commerce without response. Judy suggested submitting an article to the Webster-Kirkwood Times and to have a certificate declaring a business with diverse abilities.

Geoff questioned what information appeared in the SBD newsletter article. There is a link attachment with the letter drafted and the point of contact being Mary Claire Sorensen in Administration. Geoff suggested going to the SBD businesses and talking to them in person.

Meeting Updates

Superintendent Meeting

Michelle Cole, Judy Moticka, Carolyn Becker and Amanda Sher met with Superintendent Ulrich last month. Amanda felt the take away from the meeting was that Dr. Ulrich asked them to “hold him accountable” for sticking to the strategic plan. He seems to be the real deal.

Judy was pleasantly surprised that he seemed very genuine and will not be afraid to be approached by the KHRC.

Carolyn said he came across as being very honest and admitted when he didn't have the answer.

Michelle wasn't sure what to expect at the meeting but felt the superintendent was genuine.

Geoff asked about the KECC/Adventure Club discussion at the meeting. It appeared the superintendent did not have many answers regarding the cost and the waitlist issues. Dr. Ulrich stated he will be giving more attention to the KECC/Adventure Club.

The plan is to schedule the next meeting with Dr. Ulrich in June. Judy will email the commissioners to set up the date.

New Business

Michelle participated in the Keysor Equity discussion group last week. The meeting had guided questions and direction for discussion. Michelle felt it was a great approach on getting people out of their comfort level to discuss race issues.

Judy suggested Diversity Action Partnership (DAP) would be a good resource to speak at a future KHRC meeting. Amanda mentioned pairing that with the Youth Advisory Commission, also.

Geoff reported the Kirkwood Police Department is planning to hold the Hot Dog Days events this summer and suggested having an information table at the Farmers Market staffed by KHRC commissioners this fall. Geoff will contact Kori Thompson to make arrangements.

Next Meeting

Amanda stated elections for officers will occur at the June meeting. Since the Chair is leaving, Geoff has offered to take the Chair position and Judy has offered to stay in the Vice Chair position. Judy and Bob have one year left in their terms.

Judy mentioned KHRC should be able to have in person involvement in the community this summer.

Chair Remarks

Amanda reported this is her last meeting and serving on the KHRC has been an honor. She truly enjoys the friendships she has made and respects everyone on the commission. Amanda feels that human rights is an issue to be tackled, especially in Kirkwood. She thanked Council Member Duwe for mentoring her while on the KHRC.

Judy thanked Amanda for being her mentor and for their friendship. Judy invited Amanda to attend the future City Council meeting to award the essay winners.

The next regular meeting of the KHRC is scheduled to be held on June 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Geoff Morrison and seconded by Margie Palozollo to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Geoff Morrison, Secretary