

MINUTES

Mayor's Commission on Human Rights
And Community Relations
October 21, 2015, Meeting
First Floor Conference Room, Busch Municipal Building
5:30-7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Todd Thomas, Vice Chair; Roger Cotton; Christina Ryder; Dan Scott

Absent: Emily Journagan,

Staff Member absent

Guests: Michelle Garand, Deputy Director of the Affordable Housing Center; Kristy Coffin, sociology student at MSU

Called to order at 5:41 by Vice Chair, Todd Thomas

It was announced that David Knox had resigned and that John Duckett and Roger Cotton had served enough months so that they could not be renewed. Though they could continue until replacements are found, both declined. Appreciation for their service was expressed. Concern was expressed that new members for the Commission be found soon.

The minutes from September will need to be approved at the next meeting because of the lack of a quorum.

Dan will find out what the bylaws say about how a quorum is calculated and what the procedure is for filling the vacated offices.

Christina introduced the guest presenter, Michelle Garand, the Deputy Director of the Affordable Housing Center, under the Community Partnership of the Ozarks. Michelle explained their role in serving the housing needs of the region and coordinating the obtaining of and distributing of HUD funds to various community agencies. She expressed gratitude for Christina's help, through MSU, in dealing with data that they have to analyze, particularly on the homeless. She said that one way the Commission could be of help would be for members to be available to provide resource information, especially to answer questions about rights and discrimination. The Commission needs to be a listed partner with the Center.

Michelle agreed to send a letter to the Commission listing ways we could help the Housing Center, such as donating funds for the informative function of the website, as we have done in the past.

Christina introduced a potential intern, Kristy Coffin, a sociology student at MSU. The commissioners discussed with her various ways she might be helpful to the work of the Commission while learning about various ways to apply sociology to the needs of the community. Christina agreed to help her decide if working with the Commission is what she is really interested in and if so, then, to choose a specific area to work in. It was pointed out that her background might suit her to research and do statistical analysis of certain kinds of discrimination in the community.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59.

Submitted by Roger Cotton (for the last time)

Next meeting: Since the attendance for the November and December dates may not come to a quorum Dan will check the bylaws to see if the required number of meetings for the year has been met and the commission could recess till January.