

Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations

February 2, 2018

The Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations met in special session February 2, 2018 at 3:00 pm in the Springfield City Utilities Transit Main Station Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Todd Thomas.

Present Carlye Wannenmacher, Pamela Hernandez, Bob Roberts, Brittany O'Brien, Heather Hardinger and Todd Thomas.

Absent Steve Largent

Staff Bob Atchley, Planning and Development; Nicholas Woodman, Law; Melissa Haase, Public Information and Lisa Gateley, Planning and Development

Guests:

**Discussion of
Schedule for 2018**

Discussion of the events of January and how they turned out. Planning the first six months of events.

April 12 is the Fair Housing Seminar and the MO Commission on Human Rights will be there to discuss.

Previous calendar shows Cinco de Mayo and MDA Muscle Walk in May; however, the weather hasn't permitted Cinco de Mayo celebrations in the past. Consider having the Missouri Commission on Human Rights training in May. Would like to get on the agenda for City Council for updates in March, but need to set up a communication plan. Need to have an election at the next meeting to elect the Vice Chair and discuss the Communications Chair. Pamela has been trying to find information for Women's History Month for March. Missouri State is having a Collaborative Diversity Conference from April 25 – 27, and it may be something they are interested in attending. Carlye has attended before, and Pamela and Heather are both going to be participating in panels. Pamela will get additional information to provide to the group to determine if it would be something the commission should attend. Brittany will look for opportunities to participate in for Women's History Month. February 23 is a Black History month trivia contest at Q Enoteca. It is \$10 per person and five people per team. Brittany, Todd and Pamela plan to try to attend. There is also the Cherry Blossom and Kite Festival in April that is a possibility.

Melissa Haase offered to have an article for the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations in the April Springfield Neighborhood News. The article would need to be completed and to Melissa by mid March.

June will include Juneteenth and PrideFest. Pamela will provide the information for Pride as soon as it is available.

Would like to provide an update to the Mayor and City Council in March to provide information on the Strategic Plan as well as the events planned. Then go back later in the year around October to advise what events were attended and the results. Would like to eventually do quarterly updates; however, may be best to begin with two for this year. Would like to meet with the Mayor first and then meet with City Council. Melissa recommended getting on the agenda for Council Lunch, and it may be set up through the City Clerk's office. Add discussion about time and date to meet with the Mayor on

the agenda for the 2/21/18 meeting.

April 7 is the Cherry Blossom and Kite Festival. Will need to make sure that the members can fully participate at the events that they sign up for.

Bob suggested that a point person be assigned for each event to make sure each runs smoothly.

There is Juneteenth and PrideFest in June. Todd will talk with Cheryl Clay about Juneteenth and Pamela will try to get information on the date for PrideFest.

Would like to have an additional event planning meeting in May to plan for the remainder of the year. If participating in Juneteenth and PrideFest it will provide a good opportunity to let the community know about a Listening Session for July or August. It would also be good to include information about Listening Session in the April Neighborhood News issue, as well as the NextDoor app.

Pamela suggested that a one day retreat be done in May to include another event planning meeting, strategic planning and Missouri Commission on Human Rights training. Todd will contact the Missouri Commission and see when they would be available to come down for a training. Discussion about time when the members would be available for a training day and will work with the Missouri Commission to determine best time in May.

The month of March the Commission will be collecting information and writing the article for the Springfield Neighborhood News and Brittany will work on collecting information on Women's History Month for participation opportunities in March. Would like to look at having a Listening Session in July or August as well as a Coffee with the Commission to have open conversation with the public. Will need to post for the public, but since not a formal meeting will not need minutes recorded. Heather will check on the use of the Brentwood Library for the Community Listening Session in July and it will replace the regular meeting in July. Would like to meet one morning in March to do Coffee with the Commission. Would like to look at moving these around the community, maybe a different zone each time.

Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:10 PM.

Prepared by Lisa Gateley

Todd Thomas, Chair

The minutes of this meeting were approved at the February 21, 2018 meeting.