

Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations

February 21, 2018

The Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations met in regular session February 21, 2018 in the Bush Building First Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Todd Thomas.

Present

Present: Carlye Wannemacher, Brittany O'Brien, Heather Hardinger, Bob Roberts, Steve Largent*, Francie Wolff, and Todd Thomas. Absent: Pamela Hernandez.

*Steve Largent left the meeting at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Absent

Pamela Hernandez

Staff

Bob Atchley, Planning and Development; Nick Woodman, Law; and Kris Wright, City Clerk's Office.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 15, 2017 and February 2, 2018 MCHCR meetings were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Havens addressed the Commission. He expressed his opinion the public comments section should be moved to the end of the meeting to allow comment on issues discussed at the meeting.

Isabelle Walker addressed the Commission. She presented information on the Show Me PACE program and expressed her opinion this is a risky program for low-income homeowners.

Toni Robinson, Co-Chair, NAACP, addressed the Commission. She asked for clarification on the process for receiving and addressing complaints. Todd Thomas stated these procedures are outlined in the MCHCR brochure.

Mandy Monsees addressed the Commission. She expressed her appreciation to the Commission for their efforts and stated she wants to work with the MCHCR to orchestrate change and provide outreach to the community.

There being no further appearances, the public hearing was closed at 6:07 p.m.

The following was discussed under Unfinished Business

Communication Plan

Heather Hardinger noted she will be preparing articles to be included in the City of Springfield SCENE newsletter. She stated Commissioners wishing to have a specific topic discussed in the article should email these to Heather. Todd Thomas expressed his opinion highlighting the multitude of volunteer opportunities in Springfield, and how to apply, should be the focus of one article. Steve Largent expressed his opinion providing a definition of the MCHCR's role and responsibilities can be another article idea.

**Outreach
Brochure**

The final draft of the Outreach Brochure was presented to the Committee. Several typographical errors were identified. Heather Hardinger moved to correct the errors and finalize the Outreach Brochure for distribution. Carlye Wannemacher seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**2018 Calendar of
Events**

The Commission reviewed the Mayor's Commission events through June 2018.

Brittany O'Brien noted she did extensive research, looking for events in March to celebrate Women's History month and there are no local activities or events.

Todd Thomas noted the upcoming St. Patrick's Day parade is coming up and the Mayor's Commission members can walk in the parade and pass out brochures.

Heather Hardinger noted Alamo Drafthouse is hosting a presentation Breakthrough Portraits of Women in Science, in celebration of Women's History month.

Todd Thomas noted April 2018 is Fair Housing Month and the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. He stated events commemorating this milestone include an event at the Fox Theatre with Nate Johnson, President, Missouri Realtors Association, as a guest speaker.

The Commission discussed the Collaborative Diversity Conference, scheduled for April 25-27, 2018, with sponsorship levels starting at \$1,000. Todd Thomas stated he will follow-up with the City of Springfield to see if they are a sponsor of the event and if the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights can be a part of the City's sponsorship.

The Commissioners discussed scheduling a Training Retreat to be conducted by a representative from the Missouri Commission on Human Rights. The consensus of the Commission was to schedule the half-day Training Retreat for Tuesday, May 22, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Todd Thomas will contact the Missouri Commission on Human Rights to schedule a representative to provide the training materials.

Todd Thomas noted Juneteenth and PrideFest are both scheduled for June 16, 2018. The Commission will plan to participate in both events.

The following was discussed under New Business**City Council
Guidelines**

Todd Thomas noted Mayor McClure sent a Memorandum to all Board and Commission Chairs outlining guidelines for public comments at City Council Meetings, Council Luncheons and Council Committee Meetings. Mr. Thomas noted Mayor McClure requested all Committee and Board Chairs to implement these guidelines when conducting their meetings.

The Commission reviewed and discussed the Memorandum and acknowledged receipt.

**Election of Vice
Chair**

Carlye Wannemacher nominated Heather Hardinger to serve as Vice-Chair of the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights. Brittany O'Brien seconded the nomination and it was approved unanimously.

**Communications
Chair**

Todd Thomas noted the Commissioners have discussed adding a Communications Chair position. He stated the person in this role would be responsible for providing communication to City Council and the community through social media sites including

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Nick Woodman, Assistant City Attorney, noted to add this position, the bylaws will need to be amended. Mr. Woodman will provide proposed amended bylaws to the Commission at the next meeting.

Coffee with the Commission

Todd Thomas noted this new community outreach initiative will give the community the opportunity to discuss human rights issues with Commissioners in an informal setting. The Commission members discussed several dates, times and locations. It was the consensus of the Commission that the first “Coffee with the Commission” session will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at Big Momma’s Coffee & Espresso Bar at 217 E. Commercial Street in Springfield and additional details will be provided at the next meeting.

Meeting with the Mayor

The Commissioners discussed scheduling quarterly update meetings with Mayor McClure. The consensus of the Commission was to have the Commission Chair and the Communications Chair attend these meetings. This topic will be included in the next meeting’s agenda for further discussion and finalization.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Prepared by Kris Wright

Todd Thomas, Chair

The minutes of the February 21, 2018 meeting of the Mayors Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations was approved, as corrected, at the March 21, 2018 meeting of the Mayor’s Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations.