

Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations

May 16, 2018

The Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations met in regular session May 16, 2018 in the Busch Building 2nd Floor West Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Heather Hardinger.

Present Present: Heather Hardinger, Vice-Chair; Pamela Hernandez, Communications Officer; Bob Roberts*, Francie Wolff, Steve Largent and Mike Jungers.

*Bob Roberts arrived at 6:07 p.m.

Absent Todd Thomas, Chair and Carlye Wannenmacher

Staff Bob Atchley, Planning and Development and Nick Woodman, Law

Guests Tim Havens, citizen

Introduction of newest commission member Mike Jungers.

Approval of Minutes The minutes of the April 18, 2018 MCHRCR Meeting were approved as corrected.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Havens appeared before the committee and provided a handout (Exhibit A). Mr. Havens expressed concern that at the last meeting he asked the group how it would define itself and the question was not answered then. Mr. Havens expressed concern that the only two items for the scope of responsibility are housing and employment discrimination and he advised that he had to go to the Clerk's office to get the number of cases that the MCHRCR heard last year and it was zero. Would like to know what the scope of authority is going to be. Feels like the scope should be broadened. Expressed concern that seatbelt law stops need to be keeping records by race and that the Police Department should be reporting back to the MCHRCR quarterly. Feels there needs to be an initiative presented to City Council to increase diversity of City staff and boards and provide those numbers and information to the MCHRCR. Mr. Havens discussed his concerns with the Give 5 program and his hopes for the volunteers as well as his opinion that the CU Transit Station should be renamed to the "Allen – Coker – Duncan Memorial" in memory of those men who were lynched on the square.

Heather Hardinger responded to Mr. Havens comments advising that herself and other commissioners after other citizen comments have found it would be beneficial to form a subcommittee based on racial equity. They hope to research, discuss and start collecting information to collaborate with some of the opportunities already happening in the community. Some of Mr. Havens points would be a great way to utilize some of the time with the subcommittee. LGBTQ Equality Subcommittee has also been established.

Mr. Havens expressed his concern for having to be limited to five minutes when he is the only

citizen there to make comments during the open comment period. Ms. Hardinger advised that it is in their bylaws and that she is running the meeting to reflect what the bylaws state. She thanked Mr. Havens for his comments and advised that they are beneficial and they will keep them in mind with the subcommittees. Mr. Jungers addressed that Give 5 is emphasized to all the non-profits and participants that want to participate. Menial activities are not what Give 5 participants will be doing; they will be doing things that non-profits have not been able to do due to lack of funding or man power.

Mr. Jungers made a motion to close Public Comments. Ms. Wolff seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Public Comment was closed at 5:49 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Missouri Commission on Human Rights Training

The training session for members of the MCHRCR with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights is scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at Guaranty Bank – Farmers Park location. Discussion about what the plan is and that Mr. Thomas has been communicating with the Trainer from the State Commission. Attendance posting will need to be sent to the City Clerk's office.

2018 Juneteenth Celebration - June 16, 2018

Discussion of who will volunteer to attend and the what the booth will consist of. The location is the Bartley Neighborhood Center, and is a celebration of slavery ending in the U.S. as well as a fun kickoff to summer. Mr. Jungers and Mr. Largent volunteered for this event. Ms. Hernandez made a motion to sponsor a booth in the amount of \$25.00 for the event. Mr. Jungers seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Pridefest 2018 – June 16, 2018

Discussion of who will attend and what will be needed for the booth. The event will run from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There is a parade that begins at 10:30 a.m. then the festival will follow. Will coordinate with The City about picking up a tent for the event as well as supplies. Will coordinate volunteers through email. Ms. Hernandez and Mr. Jungers volunteered for this event, and additional volunteers may be coordinated through email. Mr. Jungers made a motion to sponsor a booth in the amount of \$75.00 for the event. Mr. Largent seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Community Listening Session

Discussion regarding location and date. Last year a listening session was held and provided an opportunity to introduce themselves as commissioners as well as a chance to talk to citizens about the commission. Last year this was held at the Midtown Carnegie Library; however, that space is booked for the time designated for this year. Had previously voted to hold the Listening Session to be on the July 18 meeting. Discussion about holding a regular meeting in July then have an additional meeting for the Listening Session or if it should be moved to the regular meeting date in August. Ms. Hernandez made a motion to move the Listening Session from the July 18, 2018 date to the scheduled meeting date of August 15, 2018 with the location to be determined. Mr. Largent seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of the Survey on the Human Rights City

Discussion of how to approach the questions and what the appropriate way to handle the request is. Per Mr. Woodman some of the information they are looking for is more of a Sunshine Request and may be forwarded to the City Clerk's office.

Ms. Hardinger made a motion to forward the request to the City Clerk's office to forward records (Bylaws, Strategic Plan and brochure). Mr. Jungers seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**Interfaith Alliance
of the Ozarks**

Ms. Wolff announced the Interfaith Alliance of the Ozarks invitation to the O'Reilly Catholic Center, 840 S. Holland Avenue on Thursday June 7, 2018 for the Springfield Iftar Potluck Dinner. Doors open at 7:00 pm, program at 7:45 p.m. and dinner at 8:31 p.m. sunset. (Exhibit B)

**Meeting with the
Mayor**

Meeting has not yet been scheduled with the Mayor and discussion as to how many commission members may attend that meeting or how to go about that decision.

**LGBTQ
Subcommittee
Meeting**

Planning to meet on May 17, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the first-floor conference room for an organizational meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Prepared by Lisa Gateley

Heather Hardinger, Vice-Chair

The minutes of the May 16, 2018 meeting of the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations was approved at the July 18, 2018 meeting of the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations.