

Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations

July 18, 2018

The Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations met in regular session July 18, 2018 in the Busch Building 2nd Floor West Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Todd Thomas.

Present

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

*Bob Roberts arrived at 5:37 p.m.

Absent

Steve Largent and Carlye Wannenmacher

Staff

Bob Atchley, Planning and Development; Nick Woodman, Law; and Lisa Gateley, Planning and Development

Guests

Tim Havens, citizen

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair, Heather Hardinger moved to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2018 MCHRCR Meeting and May 22, 2018 MCHRCR Training. Mike Jungers seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Todd Thomas, Heather Hardinger, Pamela Hernandez, Mike Jungers, Francie Wolff, and Bob Roberts. Nays: None. Abstain: None.

Discussion about the Missouri Commission on Human Rights training and how complaints are handled through the MCHRCR. Assistant City Attorney, Nick Woodman advised that the process is outlined in the Bylaws.

Discussion regarding Sunshine Law and how complaints received are subject to. Assistant City Attorney, Nick Woodman reiterated that there is nothing in the Sunshine Law that allows them to close human rights complaints. There is a statute for the State Commission and State certified commissions that may close records.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Havens appeared before the committee and expressed his concern that the MCHRCR may not be a good place to bring complaints. Mr. Havens also inquired to the number of members currently serving on the Commission and expressed his interest in serving on the Commission. Mr. Havens expressed his concern for the limited amount of time for public comment at the MCHRCR LGBTQ Equality Subcommittee meetings as well as inquired about the Racial Equity Subcommittee which has not met yet. He requested to reserve a portion of his time to speak regarding the Ethics Handbook.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review of June Events

Juneteenth Celebration was well attended and is a very social event. Suggestion to possibly forgo the booth next year and just go booth to booth to visit with the other attendees and provide information about the MCHRCR.

Pridefest was a wonderful very well attended event as well. The Commission members had a busy morning and provided a lot of information and did not have any negative interactions. It was felt to be a great opportunity to share information.

Community Listening Session August 15 – Discussion of Location

Community Listening Session on August 15, 2018 will take the place of the regular MCHRCR Meeting. The listening session will be at the Library Station in the Frisco Room. The Commission plans to provide an overview of the Commission, provide an update of what they have been involved in for the past year as well as provide handout information of the Strategic Plan, brochures and calendar of upcoming meeting dates. Discussion about posting the listening session on social media and all the outlets to let citizens know about the event as well as provide an opportunity for citizens to ask questions ahead of time so that the MCHRCR may address them at the listening session. Comment cards will also be available at the event.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Supplies Required for Upcoming Events

Senior Planner, Bob Atchley advised that the Planning and Development Department will need to have a list of requested items for upcoming events at least a week or two prior to each event. Members discussed swag items for giveaways and would like to put a list together of items they want to request by the September meeting. Todd Thomas is going to work on a list of events that are typically attended by the MCHRCR as well as supplies that may be needed for each event.

Participation in Park Day Reunion

Park Day Reunion is a three-day event August 3-5, 2018 at Silver Springs Park. Discussion to attend the event either with or without a booth or possibly setting up a tent and handing out water and getting out and talking with other attendees about the MCHRCR. Todd Thomas is going to send out an email sign up for the event.

LGBTQ Subcommittee Update

Pamela Hernandez provided an update to the LGBTQ Subcommittee and advised that they have had three meetings, and all have been well attended with great participation and feedback. Key partner organizations from the community attended the June meeting and shared some insightful information about community concerns. The human rights campaign municipality equality scorecard was discussed at the July meeting. The scorecard looks at six areas from City services to law enforcement and ordinances and scores municipalities. Springfield has a score of 21. Pamela Hernandez has been communicating with the LGBTQ liaison in Columbia, MO to get information about the scorecard. The scorecard provides information of what may be improved upon.

The August meeting has been cancelled for the LGBTQ Subcommittee to provide additional time to research. There will be meetings in September and October. Hopeful that by the October meeting there will be some items to come back to the MCHRCR with to work on for 2019.

Racial Equity Subcommittee Update

Heather Hardinger advised that they have not yet scheduled their first meeting. She has been collecting information on what other communities are doing through other Mayor's Commissions to address racial equity issues and topics as well as having conversations with

other members of the community and leaders to make sure she is not reinventing the wheel. Hoping to be able to bring the right people to the table to discuss what may be done to support the things that are already in place.

Hoping to set a meeting date by September.

**Discussion of
Ethics Handbook
for City of
Springfield Board
Members**

Todd Thomas added this item to the agenda to discuss the involvement in political parties and provided information about his involvement with. Discussion about speaking to groups on behalf of the MCHRCR and if the group needs to know about it. Commission members expressed concern that if speaking on behalf of the MCHRCR it should be made known to the members.

Assistant City Attorney, Nick Woodman advised that if a member of the commission has a specific question or concern about their involvement they should speak to him in private outside of a public meeting.

The handbook has been provided to every member of the board and they had to sign upon taking their oath that they had read it.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.

Prepared by Lisa Gateley

Todd Thomas, Chair

The minutes of the July 18, 2018 meeting of the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations was approved at the September 19, 2018 meeting of the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations.