

Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations

February 20, 2019

The Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations met in regular session February 20, 2019 in the Busch Building 2nd Floor West Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Chair Heather Hardinger.

Present	Heather Hardinger, Chair; Carlye Wannenmacher, Vice Chair; Pamela Hernandez, Communications Officer; Daniel Ogunyemi; Todd Thomas, Bob Roberts and Mike Jungers
Absent	Francie Wolff
Staff	Bob Atchley, Planning and Development; Nick Woodman, Law; Dawne Gardner, Public Works and Lisa Gateley, Planning and Development.
Guests	Ann Seigel and Vicki Walden
ADA Training with Dawne Gardner	Ms. Gardner provided an overview of the Civil Rights Act and the history of the five titles. Discussion of the Title II and Title III for state and local governments and requirements for public accommodations. ADA Legislation requires access for all.

Ms. Gardner advised that many public places, such as restaurants, businesses are not aware that they are supposed to provide an accommodation or what that accommodation may look like. Would like to utilize the MCHRCR to help to educate public facilities on requirements and what they are required to do. Penalties for not providing accommodations include being sued, a complaint filed with the Department of Justice, and it can be a financial penalty. By not providing access is a Civil Rights violation.

Requirements of Title II, state and local government or any public entities are required to designate an ADA Coordinator, provide notice to the public about ADA requirements as well as establish a grievance procedure. Also required to develop internal design standards, specifications and details that meet minimum ADA requirements as well as complete a self-evaluation of all buildings, programs and services to determine if they are accessible. The designation of personnel for the development of a transition plan for anything that is not accessible after the self-evaluation. A schedule and a budget should be included in the transition plan.

Ms. Gardner has a goal to have the draft of the Public Rights of Way Transition Plan complete by May 1, 2019. She would like to involve the MCHRCR with the 60-day public comment period to gather public comment. The MCHRCR is planning to have a Public Listening Session in June devoted to that specific topic.

Provided examples of non-compliant sidewalks, and how to maintain compliant sidewalks.

Ms. Gardner provided an overview about Project Civic Access, what they do and how they work.

Discussion regarding public accommodations for private entities which includes restaurants,

movie theaters, shopping malls and any commercial facility that is open to the public. Priorities include providing access from public sidewalks, parking areas and public transportation, as well as providing access to goods and services offered by the entity. It is also important to provide access to public restrooms and public drinking fountains.

Discussion regarding ADA service animals and what businesses may ask regarding service animals and how Federal Housing is different.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Hernandez advised that meeting attended in January shown in the minutes was attended by Ms. Hardinger and the meeting name is the Chiefs Citizen Advisory Group. Todd Thomas moved to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2019 MCHRCR Meeting with the above corrections. Mike Jungers seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Todd Thomas, Pamela Hernandez, Daniel Ogunyemi, Carlye Wannenmacher, Heather Hardinger, Bob Roberts and Mike Jungers. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Francie Wolff.

Public Comments

Local activist Ann Seigel recently heard about the MCHRCR and excited to hear about what they do and what is going on. She hopes to get the word out and get more members of the community to attend. Looking to see what is going to happen in Springfield regarding Combat Team, racial disparity, LGBTQ plus.

Vicki Walden expressed that she is present at the meeting for the same reason. She has concern that we're in a dangerous place in the country and is concerned for her family that lives here and their future.

Unfinished Business

Review of Meeting with Mayor McClure

Ms. Hardinger and Ms. Hernandez met with Mayor McClure and set up two additional dates to meet with him this year and discussed priorities. Mayor McClure brought up the two following priorities: Workforce Development and development of the Comprehensive Plan. Discussion on how the MCHRCR can help to support these two priorities.

Discussion as how many others are unaware of the MEI Scorecard. The MCHRCR plays a vital role in sharing this information and educating people.

Discussion about NAACP and requesting for Toni Robinson to attend a meeting of the MCHRCR.

Would like to discuss at a future meeting the top three to five objectives to focus on in targeting for Workforce Development for 2019 that is within the MCHRCR purview and can have a significant impact on. The next meeting with Mayor McClure is set for June and would be able to provide feedback to him on what the MCHRCR feels they can make an impact on.

Action Items for LGBTQ Equality Subcommittee

Ms. Hardinger expressed concern that she is still not aware of who is receiving the information within the City for the MEI Scorecard and how it may be improved by just knowing who the information is being requested from and making sure information is provided. May not be able to get too much information corrected and the scorecard improved too much this year but would like to try to do what may be done and work on continuing to improve the score.

Ms. Hernandez expressed concern for the role of the MCHRCR and about looking at privacy of complaints versus playing an advocacy role. This will be discussed further at the March meeting with the Bylaw review.

Ms. Hernandez also expressed concern to continue to connect with the Police Chief to establish a LGBTQ liaison with the police department.

Update on 2019 Calendar of Events

Review of events:

- 1 – March 8, 2019 Ozarks Inclusion Partnership Diversity Workshop –Mr. Ogunyemi and Ms. Hernandez will attend
- 2 – March 16, 2019 St. Patrick's Day Parade – Not going to participate this year, may look at this again next year
- 3 – April 18, 2019 Coffee with the Commission – Focus on the Racial Equity Subcommittee – location TBD
- 4 – June 19, 2019 ADA Listening Session (regularly scheduled meeting)
- 5 – June 1, 2019 Pridefest
- 6 – Banquet in June to benefit cemetery fence (Carlye will get additional information on this)
- 7 – Juneteenth
- 8 – Collaborative Diversity Conference

New Business

Change in Date and Time for March Meeting

March meeting will be March 27, 2019 at 5:00 pm in the 2nd Floor West Conference Room.

This meeting will include a Bylaw review and discussion of complaint process.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:35 p.m.

Prepared by Lisa Gateley

Heather Hardinger, Chair

The minutes of the February 20, 2019 meeting of the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations was approved at the March 27, 2019 meeting of the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations.