

Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations

August 21, 2019

The Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations met in regular session August 21, 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; Mike Jungers; Bob Roberts, Todd Thomas and Daniel Ogunyemi
Absent	Pamela Hernandez, Communications Officer, Mary Bozarth and Francie Wolff
Staff	Bob Atchley, Planning and Development; Nick Woodman, Law; and Judy White, Planning and Development
Guests	Councilman Mike Schilling
Approval of Minutes	Mike Jungers moved to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2019 MCHRCR Meeting. Carlye Wannenmacher seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Heather Hardinger, Todd Thomas, Carlye Wannenmacher, Bob Roberts, and Mike Jungers and Daniel Ogunyemi. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Mary Bozarth, Pamela Hernandez, and Francie Wolff
Public Comments	None
Unfinished Business	Complaint Process Ms. Hardinger recommended starting a formal process for Commissioners to process complaints from start to finish. Ms. Hardinger will work on a flow chart over the next few weeks, so everyone understands the process. Two Commissioners assigned to each complaint received. Mr. Woodman stated that what type of complaint will determine who is assigned. The Pre-complaint process should continue as that will not start the mandatory requirements in the code. Ms. Hardinger stated that once the complaint rises to a formal complaint then two Commissioners should be assigned to the complaint. The person assigned to the Pre-complaint would continue with the complaint and then the second person would be the person assigned to the next month that would help unless there is an expert on the subject matter in the complaint. Mr. Woodman stated that there are four different types of complaints and four different types of processes for each section of the code. The code is found in Chapter 62 – Fair Housing and Mr. Woodman will distribute Chapter 62 to the Commission. Formal Complaint – Ms. Horton Ms. Hardinger read Ms. Hernandez's comments regarding the resolution. Complaint has been resolved to the level the Commission is authorized. Ms. Hernandez to follow up with Ms. Horton by reminding her of her options (Prosecutor's Office & the State of Missouri's Mayor's Commission on Human Rights) and the limited timeframe (City = 60 days and State/Federal = 180 days) in a written a statement and that the complaint is officially resolved with the Commission.

Ms. Hardinger recommended that a workshop/training session occur during a future meeting on unconscious bias and bring in a community partner to sponsor the event or the Chamber. Mr. Ogunyemi suggested using social media to raise awareness as another means of communicating to the public. Ms. Hardinger also reminded the Commission of the conversation that she and Ms. Hernandez had with the Mayor to position the Commission as a facilitator for these types' issues.

Ms. Wannenmacher requested that Ms. Hernandez's statement to Ms. Horton be sent to all Commissioners for approval. Ms. Hardinger requested that the Commissioners respond promptly if there are changes. A 3-week deadline was suggested, and Ms. Hardinger would contact Ms. Hernandez as soon as possible with this update. The Commission thanked and commended Ms. Hernandez on her attention to Ms. Horton's complaint.

Ms. Hardinger gave an overview of the complaint process: Pre-complaint form filled out first and the Commissioner assigned would discuss their options then they can fill out a formal complaint with the City.

Mr. Ogunyemi gave an overview of a Pre-complaint regarding a service animal being the reason for wrongful eviction from her apartment. The complainant has hired Legal Services and a hearing is scheduled. Mr. Woodman remarked that as there is no formal complaint and Legal Services has been hired then the Commissioner assigned should follow-up and confirm what her plans/options are. City website lists the resources and links that she can follow, please suggest that she review the website.

New Business

Daniel Ogunyemi was accepted into the Citizen's Police Academy. The academy started Thursday, 15, 2019. Presentation on the history of Springfield was given.

Daniel Ogunyemi is in the running for Captain Springfield, please vote on the News-Leader website

Invitation sent to Commissioners for the Community Partnership of the Ozarks annual meeting in mid-September. If able to attend, follow instructions on the flyer. Gives an overview of the different programs and ministries of the Council of Churches with the community.

Additional New Business

Mr. Thomas mentioned attending the Anniversary of the ADA event. Next year will be different as it will be the 30th anniversary.

Mr. Thomas also attended the National Night Out

Mr. Atchley reported that approval was given for Pride Fest 2019 and the Springfield Culture Fest – Mr. Atchley will put together an ad and e-mail to the Commissioners for approval.

Mr. Ogunyemi and Mr. Jungers attended the Ozark Inclusion Event

Jackie Robinson Day at the Springfield Cardinals is August 27 and tickets are available at Big Momma's

Ms. Hardinger would like to add to a future agenda (October or November meetings) to discuss 2020 Census. Census will begin April 1, 2020 and will be in effect for 10 years. Ms. Hardinger would give an overview of what it is and what it does for our community. Ms. Hardinger will check with Ms. Hernandez to calendar.

Mr. Schilling mentioned ForwardSGF events with the kick-off of the comprehensive plan. Suggested that the Commission engage with the events and suggest social justice be included. Mr. Ogunyemi is on the ForwardSGF Advisory Committee and would welcome any recommendations. Center City will be a separate section later in the process. Please take part in the process when possible.

Ms. Wannenmacher – Congratulations on being named Most Influential Women. Luncheon will be held on Friday, October 11.

Francie Wolff has given verbal resignations from the Commission. Mr. Atchley will contact Ms. Wolff requesting a written letter of resignation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:34 p.m.

Prepared by Judy White

Heather Hardinger, Chair

The minutes of the August 21, 2019 meeting of the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations was approved at the September 18, 2019 meeting of the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations.