

**Mayor's Commission on Human Rights
and Community Relations**

MINUTES

The Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations met in the Busch Building, Conference Room L45 (Lower Level) on August 18, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Carlye Wannenmacher at approximately 5:30 pm.

Present	Virtually via Zoom: Carlye Wannenmacher, Pamela Hernandez, Daniel Ogunyemi, Kelly Fender, Bob Roberts, Rachel Bridges, and Mike Jungers In Person: Dr. Edna Smith, and Chase Snider
Absent	None
Public	None
Staff	Bob Atchley, Judy White, Planning and Development Department, and Taj Suleyman, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Approval of Minutes	Daniel Ogunyemi moved to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2021 MCHRCR Meeting. Edna Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
Public Comments	None
New Business	Officer Succession Plan • Daniel mentioned last meeting that he would not be seeking reelection and Carlye's final term on the Commission expires in October of this year. Bob Atchley has informed the Clerk's office of these two departures and reviewed the bylaws, which require elections in September. Mike stated that he feels the Commission needs diversity in order to be more representative of the community. Per Pamela's suggestion, Bob Atchley read the position descriptions to provide everyone an understanding of each. Mike is interested in either the Chair or Vice-Chair position but could also continue in his current role as well. • Taj mentioned an orientation, understanding of the Robert Rules, how government works, and a smart, clear goal. He established a draft of a questionnaire regarding where we were, where we are, and where we are heading. Carlye spoke regarding the Commission's goal and what they can do to serve a purpose as they weren't ever given a clear purpose and understanding of how the Commissioner's fit into the City government. Taj thinks it's important to explore together what the tools are that will be needed in the future. The new Chair will need to discuss with the Mayor as well. • Edna wondered if the commission has some sort of obligation to determine why they are there. She suggested gathering information from experienced Commission members to get an idea of the history, that way she can give some input on where she thinks the Commission should be going. Carlye mentioned that COVID really put a curve ball in the progress of making an impact. Mike believes it is not just new members but at the next meeting for everyone to share their motivation for joining the Commission and where they are headed while limited the amount of time for each commissioner. Chase encouraged them to be mindful of the path they take to get there. Taj asked why diverse representation is wanted and why or why not they are ready for the diversity. Carlye asked what the City's definition of diversity is and who they are trying to include. Taj gave his definition of diversity stating any difference makes a difference. Edna would like to know what the factors are that determine diversity and determine what makes a difference and believes it is something that should be discussed openly. She wants to look at what makes a difference to her and why.

- Daniel stated that being intentional with how they are screening and inviting new members would help keeping from shifting definitions every year.
- Edna questioned how much time and energy each Commissioner is willing to devote to this Commission. Carlye stated that if it is meaningful, then it makes sense that they would show up and do the work. She believes the biggest challenge is finding meaningful purpose to plug in and do the right work. Pamela agreed that the people that sign up to be a member of the MCHRCR will be dedicated to doing the work. She thinks they need to be a part of the process of members joining their Commission. Taj suggested inviting someone to speak surrounding the topic of abilities and disabilities on how we can partner while waiting for a representative in that category as they can't just wait for diversity to happen.

Unfinished Business

Continued Discussion of Possible MCHRCR Retreat and Agenda Items for the Retreat

- Taj suggested providing support on the score card. He will get with Pamela to connect and identify opportunities.
- Mike inquired about a new updated membership list which Bob Atchley will obtain from the Clerk's office.
- Taj thinks part of a future retreat would be an orientation booklet and how that would work.
- Rachel officially introduced herself and her name will be changing on Saturday as she is getting married. She is happy to be here and excited to work with the Commission.
- Chase is excited to join in the engaging discussion and looking forward to the future.
- Mike had asked about documents for new members regarding investigations, protocol, and a member being on duty each month. He and Carlye would like to get that information in order, sent out, and get the schedule set. Mike is interested in being in the Chair and asked if anyone was interested in the other open positions, as they could call the current members to get information.
- Bob and Judy will send out a welcoming email which will include an email contact list.
- If there are 5 people present to talk, it then becomes a public meeting.
- Bob Atchley reached out to the State Commission on Human Rights and they would be happy to conduct a training session for the MCHRCR. The contact person is located in Jefferson City and would prefer to provide the training via a virtual option.

Carlye adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:33 p.m. with a motion from Mike Jungers and a second from Edna Smith. Motion passed.

Carlye Wannenmacher, Chair