

**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, 2nd Floor West Conference Room on September 15, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Carlye Wannenmacher at approximately 5:30 pm.

- Present** Carlye Wannenmacher, Mike Jungers, Pamela Hernandez, Bob Roberts, Rachel Bridges, Kelly Fender, and Chase Snider via Zoom
- Absent** Edna Smith, and Daniel Ogunyemi
- Public** Tim Havens
- Staff** Bob Atchley, Lisa Gateley, Planning and Development Department, Mary Bozarth (via Zoom), Law Department, and Taj Suleyman
- Approval of Minutes** Mike Jungers moved to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2021 MCHRCR Meeting. Bob Roberts seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- Public Comments** Tim Havens introduced himself as a long-time resident of Springfield. He spoke about homelessness in the community and has noticed the problem of transportation. There are complaints of the homeless in neighborhoods of garbage left, seeing people take care of bodily functions, etc. which is mainly due to concentrated people near the centers. If they had transportation away from the centers and neighborhoods, it may help some of these problems. The people are carrying all of their belongings on their back which also can lead to health problems. This problem could be resolved for a small amount of money by providing free transportation. He would hope that MCHRCR would support this and come to the Council meeting to help present the idea.
- Carlye thanked Mr. Havens and suggested to bring issues to them and hopefully Taj can help bring light to these problems.
- Bob Roberts mentioned that Greene County is working on transportation when Amazon opens.
- Taj stated that homelessness has been increasing nationwide. He believes the issue here is increase of people not from Springfield. It takes more than the City of Springfield to address homelessness. There are best practices out there, but they aren't necessarily one size fits all. We speak about them as if they are invisible. Transportation, mental health, poverty, and DEI are some of the multiple issues of this matter.
- Bob Atchley is on the executive board of Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness. The City was awarded a little over 3.8 million dollars in HOME Ark Funds. It won't solve homelessness but is a step in the right direction by using this as emergency shelters and affordable housing. Also applying for two million dollars in DED funds to apply for public services and facilities for the homeless. They are trying to address the immediate concerns, such as emergency shelter and affordable housing first. He doesn't believe that these funds include the transportation aspect.
- Mr. Havens works at two shelters and there are times when they must make them leave with nowhere to go and in the elements without transportation.
- Mike understands that homelessness is a problem in our area and an invitation to go the City Council meeting can be done personally, but not appropriate to go and represent the commission. He motioned to move on to other business on the agenda. Chase seconded the motion.

Unfinished Business

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

- Mike state the retreat would be in person and doesn't foresee that happening now but hopefully sometime in the near future. He suggested to redirect the discussion to what needs to be happening now, such as going over Roberts Rules and/or procedures when a pre-complaint is received. Currently none of the new members have this information.
- Carlye doesn't disagree and mentioned getting back to basics. What is the primary role, how do they function as a commission, and who gives the support? How do we format these said duties and direction?
- Pamela thinks that it is up to MCHRCR and partnering with Taj. Her suggestion is to devote time to the next couple of meetings to the points Mike brought up. As they get new officers, they need to come together to create a slate of items in conjunction with Taj of items and where to go from there.
- Taj shared a survey that he's worked on and discussed in a previous meeting. He is hoping to finalize this questionnaire today to determine the type of support they need for the retreat as well as ongoing support. He went over the survey with the commission.
- Mike sees the value of the survey but thinks that these documents put into a packet for every new member would be more valuable.
- Taj mentioned the need of establishing a guide for complaints.
- Mike asked if the Planning Department would assemble these documents and put them into a packet. Taj answered by saying the packet being put together is already being worked on. Orientation packet will be included in this as well. Taj then continued to finish going over the survey.
- Mike would like to move on for the sake of time. Taj will email form to commission for them to review and determine if changes are needed.
- Carlye felt they didn't have the right plan or foundation to do what she signed up for.
- Kelly moved to put the retreat on hold and get the items Taj mentioned and learn more of the commission. Mike seconded the motioned to table the retreat. Motion passed with Chase being absent as he left the meeting at approximately 6:10 p.m.

MCHRCR Member on Duty Call List

- Carlye recommends recreating the Member on Call Duty List with the exit of some members and entre of some new members and that should be part of the packet for new members.
- Mike asked who is on call for the month of September or if Judy has a monthly listing of who is assigned to be on call. Bob Atchley stated that they don't have a current listing.
- Carlye suggested that if a complaint comes in it could be assigned for the time being.
- Pamela asked Mike if he'd be okay with doing this as a training opportunity to work in conjunction with a new member.
- Mike would be willing to walk through steps with Mary Bozarth on how a complaint is handled. He will survey the members to which determine which months they prefer and work best for them.
- The call list will be retooled, and Mike will be the point person in the interim.

New Business

Election of Officers

- Thanks were given to Carlye and Daniel from other commission members for their service.
- Mike motioned to take nominations and hear briefly from each candidate. Kelly seconded the motions.
- Chair- Carlye, as the outgoing chair, nominated Mike Jungers to be chair. Bob seconded the nomination and Mike accepted the nomination. Motion passed.
- Vice Chair – Mike nominated Pamela Hernandez and Carlye seconded. Pamela accepts the

nomination. Motion passed.

- Communications Officer – Rachel is potentially interested but would like more information on the expectations of the role. Kelly motioned to nominate Rachel as communications officer with Bob seconding the motion. Mike nominated Kelly but she respectfully declined the nomination. Motion passed.
- Bob Atchley reached out to the City Clerk's office and they are working on a new member listing, but he hasn't seen it yet. He also agreed about Mike's idea of a sub commission but would have to keep in mind of the Sunshine Law so it would need to be posted as a public meeting. Mr. Eric Kreckle, the deputy director with the State Commission on Human Rights, would be happy to provide some different training sessions for the commission. Bob invited him to attend both the October and November meetings to give training sessions if the group is open to the training.
- Carlye would be open to host the training sessions at Farmer's Park facilities if needed.

Carlye adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:59 p.m. with a motion from Bob Roberts and a second from Mike Jungers. Motion passed.

Carlye Wannenmacher, Chair