

Minutes of Meeting
Human Relations Meeting
October 18, 2014

A meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at Heman Park Community Center, University City, MO 63130

Members in Attendance: Kathy McGinnis, Jackie Womack, Meg McClelland
Angelene Hayes

Members Excused: Charmaine Glenn, Robyn Williams

Agenda

The October 16, 2014 agenda was approved.

Minutes

Commissioner Womack motioned to approve the September 18, 2014 minutes as amended, and Commissioner Hayyes seconded.

Unfinished Business

1. University City Banner-next steps

Commissioner ~~McClelland~~ is still working on this
Glenn

2. Grant about Fair Housing

Commissioner McGinnis asked the commission members if they would like if a member of EHOOC would come out to one of the meetings to discuss fair housing training and to talk about a stable integrated community.

DISCUSSION

Commission Members discussed if or not the topics are something they should get involved with because members are not involved in affecting fair housing. The members felt they could learn more about Affirmative Furthering Fair Housing. After hearing and getting more information from a representative from EHOOC, the Commission may decide where they can steer their meetings toward and decide where they can go from there.

3. Idea about talk and opportunity for Dialogue - U City High School

Commissioner McGinnis will try again to contact Mr. Macklin next week from UCHS. She has been unsuccessful thus far.

4. Demographic data and flyer about HR Commission

Commissioner Williams had agreed to retrieve demographic information from Community Development. Commissioner Hayyes handed out a new flyer to the commission members. The information on the flyer was taken from the brochure.

5. Follow Up with Real Talk

Commission members need a little more time to see if they can be of any assistance to Real Talk.

Public/Citizen Participation

Mr. Acme Price offered his background skills to assist Commission Members on sessions with the community. He recommended that the Commission choose topics that reflected the attitude of the community. He was invited to attend the Human Relations Meeting from the Mayor of University City.

(Mr. Price is a retired Army Sergeant Major, he has formerly dealt with intelligence and administration, and also a retired principal. He has also conducted research on young children)

Racial Dialogue Sessions

DISCUSSION

Mr. Price offered some directions that might enhance what the goals are for the Commission Members.

Mayor Shelley Welsch is proposing conversations on Race, Relations, and Culture, to take off in January, and a flyer outlining Community Conversations were provided to all Commission members.

Councilmember Sharpe said that a major concern is a facilitator for these conversations. He informed the commission members the facilitator must be a person who has an understanding of what and why the Commission are conducting the meetings and must have experience with crowd emotions. Council Member Sharpe told the Commission members that they can train themselves to be facilitators for small groups with 10-12 citizens in attendance.

Commissioner Womack commented that the Commission members have been sitting here for 3 years, and took on the role as Human Relation Commissions because it was something they are all interested in and something to do. He believes the proposal submitted would help with talking about diversity would be fine, if we stay with guideline and get everybody on the same page. He also stated that most citizens will not go along with it because there are some citizens who defame the City Manager and would think they would do it at these conversation meetings

Mr. Price asked the Commission Members if the things happening in Ferguson were relevant to University City. He believes that issue needs to be discussed by somebody in University City. He also asked if University City kept up with the political issues? He said the practice in the fire dept. is to hand down jobs from father to son and has been going on for many years and that the Fire Department does not have a fair and equitable distribution of employees and that it is time for somebody to say, lets balance out the employment in the University City Fire Department. This is not going to come from the city manager and that it has to come from citizens. He offered more topics of conversations i.e.

- have we looked at the percentage of death by guns between black and white youngsters in the big city
- Why are black kids killing each other with consistency?
- A black person has never been elected to anything in the First ward
- Why are black kids disrespecting us?

He believes the public will be interested in looking at what you can do to help make change. Enlighten citizens so that he or she can know that life has more value than fear. He believes the Commission Members have a responsibility to bring the energy up for this committee and

that they should get it done and that the first meeting has to be good for citizens to come back to the meetings.

Commissioner McGinnis made a motion to contact Shelley Welsch and ask that she provide a list of members from the community who can meet with this commission to get this proposal started if she wanted to kick this off in January.

Commissioner Haynes seconded the motions. The motion passed.

Council Liaison Report

- Joe Edwards has opened a new 24 hour diner.
- SEVERAL ESTABLISHMENTS HAVE ASKED FOR LICQUOR LICENCE.
- No Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fire Department has been met
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Ward Council members are working together to work on concerns of the city
- There were some problems with the last U. City High Alumni Association event, and the council members are trying to work out how they are going to handle the situation
- University City budget is working out.
- He will ask Councilmember Crowe about the vacancy in the Human Relations Commission.

Next Meeting Date

November 20, 2014

