

Minutes of Meeting
Human Relations Commission Meeting
July 17, 2015

A meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order at 6:35 p.m. at Heman Park Community Center, University City, MO 63130

Members in Attendance: Angelene Hayes, Charmaine Glenn, Jonathan Falk, Jackie Womack, Kathy McGinnis

Members Excused: Meg McClelland

Members absent:

Agenda

The July 17, 2015 agenda was approved.

Minutes

The June 18, 2015 minutes were approved, as amended.

Unfinished Business

1. Brochure – Was printed and given to Commissioner Womack who distributed them.
2. Endorsements to website for Real Talk & U-City Conversations on Race, Class & Culture was updated, however, some minor verbiage needed to be corrected. Link for Assistance - The Human Relations Commission's webpage should have a link that residents can note clearly that they are on the web page.
3. Concerned Citizen Form.
Commissioner Falk agreed to design an interactive PDF form which would be accessible on the webpage.
4. Supporting Organization Sheet needed to be updated with the Commission's official title.
5. Commissioner Williams' replacement has been submitted.
6. Commissioner McGinnis and Commissioner Falk drafted a statement for the board members to review and agree upon. Some minor changes are needed on the statement. Commissioner Falk agreed to finalize the interactive form along with a link.
7. Revisiting Bylaws, Ordinances.
The Liaison provided the 2011 signed copy of the Ordinance, and will email it out to all Board members. The Bylaws and Ordinance are to be discussed at another time.
8. Strategic Planning.

Board members continued to discuss inviting a council member to attend the meeting and provide a clear understanding regarding their role as Board members. The strategic plan is on hold for now until goals are in place.

New Business

Brochure

Discussion. Brochures needed to present a better alignment. Commissioner Womack agreed to distribute more flyers to residents. Commissioner Womack informed the board members he showed the flyer to the City Mayor, and that she informed him he could not pass out the flyers at the City Council meeting, nor did she want to take a copy of the flyer and that he believed the Mayor did not want him to pass out the flyers anywhere.

Mayor's Resolution

The Commission members are not clear if/how they should move forward with the Mayor's resolution that was passed.

Goals

A motion was made to discuss ways to set long and short term goals for the board members. The motion passed.

Suggestion was made to invite a member from the Fire and Police department to see how the Human Relations Commission could help them in any way. Different approaches were discussed to make this happen. Concerns regarding whether training and best practices are in place, and whether the Human Relations Commission could assist in that effort. The goal is to ask them to help us understand the challenges with which they are faced and how the Commission members can help. The Commission would, also, like to ask the residents, how the Commission can help them. What are the issues? Is there a lack of training? And if there is a lack of resources. At a Council meeting, the firefighters' presence was very strong. They expressed issues that relayed that they are underpaid, overworked and stressed. The resulting question was, "If the City cannot take care of the Firefighters, how can the City expect the Firefighters to take care of the residents?"

The Commission expressed a desire to, also, gain information as to the needs of the Police, whether they have the proper training and resources in place to protect its residents. The Commission would like to assist, if possible.

It was discussed that a less intimidating approach should be considered in efforts to open up dialogues of conversation.

Commissioner Hayes stated she would be attending the next Focus Group. The Liaison will forward information on that to her.

Another recommendation was to place a statement in the ROARS brochure on what the Human Relations Commission does.

Public/Citizen Participation

None

Council Liaison Report

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.