

Meeting of the Human Relations Commission

July 19th, 2012

6:30PM

A meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order at 6:43 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of City Hall, 6801 Delmar Blvd.

Members in Attendance: Kathy McGinnis, Matt Nosko, Dave Olander, Jackie Womak

Members Absent: Katie Cohen
Marva Miller
Charlotte Sagi

Others in Attendance: Paulette Carr - Councilmember
Therese Hayes – Human Resources Manager

Approval of Agenda

Revised agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes

No minutes to approve since the most recent meeting with a quorum was February 16th, 2012. The February 16th, 2012 minutes need to be posted to the website, along with the audio.

Unfinished Business

Bylaws and Mission Statement – samples of bylaws from other boards and commissions were provided, to give members a general idea of the content.

Our mission or purpose statement is defined in ordinance, McGinnis recommends adding age, sexual orientation or ability, physical or mental.

Matt feels our “purpose” is open ended, not structured like some of the other boards and commissions – the group discussed that to “advise and recommend” is the purpose and when combined with our activities it is more clear – we will break these out as bullet points in our bylaws.

Original membership and appointments:

Katie Cohen – 1 year (wants off commission)

Matt Nosko – 1 year

Kathy McGinnis – 1 year

Dave Olander – 3 years

Jackie Womack – 2 years

Marva Miller – 3 years

Charlotte Sagi – 2 years

Councilmember Carr will submit names to council for reappointment and a new person for Katie Cohen. Reappointments will be for 3 years, and members can be reappointed one time only.

Mr. Womack asked how we show diversity on our commission. The original commission was 3 black, 4 white (one gay) with a good mixture of males vs. females – Jackie wants us to ensure and get diversity. A motion was made to request that the City Council strive for diversity when appointing members to the commission. Paulette will pass that on.

Absences

After 3 absences in a row or 2 unexcused in a calendar year, member will be asked to resign. Motion was made and seconded and approved.

Paulette Carr will reach out to Marva Miller and let her know about the new attendance rules.

Election of officers

Chairperson is a one year term then eligible for re-election. Vice Chair and Secretary – Paulette has a form showing when our members rotate off and when we hold elections-she will bring to the next meeting. When a term has expired, councilmember Carr has 30 days to make an appointment, then it goes to councilmember Glickert for 30 days, then to the Mayor so it could take 90 days to get a new person appointed.

As Chairperson, Kathy keeps track of membership, via information from Joyce, and if she doesn't have information from Joyce, Paulette will get it to her.

Hayes will draft bylaws for the group to review.

A motion was made to remove item 2. Juvenile Community Service – Marva Miller from the agenda, and was seconded and after discussion, approved.

Item 3. Relations between African American community and Asian owned businesses, group is still waiting for a draft of Charlotte's draft survey. A motion was made and seconded to leave this item on the agenda for one more month and then remove if Charlotte doesn't show up or get us copies of the survey. Focus groups / Ellen Bern – Kathy will invite her to the next meeting discuss to focus group with the University City Chamber of Commerce.

Item 4. Next Step with Schools – Victor Pichon will be invited to work with us at the September meeting regarding school items that need to be addressed.

New Business

Matt Nosko and Kathy McGinnis reported about the concerns of Flynn Park parent (Glenna Gelfand) who attended the May meeting, and her concerns with the lack of consideration of Orthodox Jewish holidays when the schools and city schedule events. She feels the Jewish community is somewhat excluded.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to recommend that the City and Schools consider Jewish holidays when scheduling events and tests.

Dave Olander brought up the attendance at Fair U City, and questioned why attendance during the day was mainly white people and at night it was mainly black people. He asked about other activities (movies and concerts) – what are the demographics of attendance? It was agreed that the commission needs to get more input from the public and other commissions to find out what drives this behavior and how to change the mix of demographics at future events.

Commission Comments / Other Business

A motion was made and seconded to add “Public is Welcome” to future agendas. First item on next agenda will be how to encourage public attendance at our meetings.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded; meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.