

MEETING MINUTES OF THE
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Thursday, November 15, 2012 @ 6:30 p.m
City Hall, 6801 Delmar Boulevard
2ndFloor Conference Room
University City, Missouri 63013

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE IS WELCOME

A meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of City Hall, 6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri.

Members in Attendance: Kathy McGinnis, Jackie Womak, Charmaine Glenn,
Meg McClelland, Matt Nosko, David Olander

Members Absent: All Present

Others In Attendance: Paulette Carr-Councilmember,
Elaine Williams-Staff Liaison
Victor Pichon and Sultan Muhammand--
Representatives from "Real Talk"

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made, seconded and approved to approve the agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Matt Nosko motioned to approve the November 15, 2012 minutes, it was seconded and approved.

Council Liaison Report

Councilmember Carr stated that the council voted to reaffirm rule #40, which says that the Liaison is the conduit between the City Council, and the commission. The Liaison does not vote and does not enter into the deliberations of the Commission. However, the Liaison is permitted to speak. Also, Council member Carr talked

about chronic absences by Commission members. The City Council, the appointing body, is the appropriate body to communicate with the absent member about their absences,

Board member McGinnis asked Councilmember Carr about Councilman Sharpe's appointment. Council member Carr said that Councilmember Sharpe would have received his assignment at the last meeting which was a few days ago, and he has a month to make that appointment, and if he fails, then the other Third Ward council member would have another month and if he fails, then it would go to the mayor. She said she would assume that the appointment would be made, probably in the next month. Councilmember Carr stated she will check into this. She also asked if Board member Marva Miller had resigned. Board member Kathy McGinnis confirmed that she did.

Unfinished Business

1. Continued conversation with representatives of "Real Talk"

Sultan Muhammad and Victor Pichon gave us more information on what Real Talk is and does in U. City Schools. The mission is “to help at-risk youth sort through the confusion and contradictions of their lives.” In the Real Talk sessions the volunteers teach the students how to think, not what to think, and they let the students know they have the power of their future.

,In terms of what the Commission can do, we talked about endorsement and support, including perhaps a mention on our website-- something about what "Real Talk" is about, and to mention that "Real Talk" could use donations, and perhaps how to get in contact with "Real Talk". We also talked about helping with refreshments and perhaps helping to solicit volunteers.

A question was asked about whether the Commission needed to get approval for the endorsement. Elaine Williams stated she would ask the Mayor the question

Mr. Olander made a motion to support the idea of endorsing. "REAL TALK" (Resilient, Education, Action, Leadership--- Triumphant, Ambition, Legacy, and Knowledge.)

"Real Talk" would also like support with their website. Information was provided about asking St. Louis out-reach program for students to do volunteer work. A lot

of college students could create website, and could receive academic credit for it. That way, they would not have to be paid. Mr. Pichon stated he would look into it. Kathy McGinnis will provide SLU Point of Contact person.

2. Continued conversation about relations between African American community and Asian American businesses.

Board Member Olander motioned that the board drop this item from the agenda because it has been a complete waste of time for two years, and ineffective. The motion was not seconded.

DISCUSSION included the following:

An idea was made to combine this item with "Real Talk". Find an Asian restaurant in the community that could provide food for "Real Talk" such as refreshments for three months. This could be an opportunity to reach out to the broader community.

The initial cause for the meeting was the issue with Asians and African Americans in the community. Mr. Olander stated that he felt there has not been enough information acquired in two years to move.

Mr. Olander made a motion to stop discussing this issue. The motion passed with one dissenting vote.

New Business

Celebration of Diversity

Board member McGinnis discussed a conversation she had with Mayor Welsh. Mayor Welsh wanted to make the celebration of diversity a higher profile issue in the community. She would be open to what the commission would do.

Discussion included:

Board member Nosko suggested that we think of something like "Faces of U City" perhaps as part of Fair U City, or as an extension of Fair U City—vendors could have booths, and maybe Delmar could be shut off. He felt that Delmar Loop might be more effective than Heman Park as a location.

A question was raised that since Delmar a county road, could it be closed down? Elaine Williams to look into this. Parts to close down would be Skinker to Big Bend.

Commission Comments/Other Business

Jackie Womack motioned to move to a different and bigger meeting space with the hope to get more people to come, including City Council members. It was not seconded.

Public/Citizen Participation

None

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 20th, 2012.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded: meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.