

MEETING MINUTES OF THE
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Thursday, January 17, 2013 @ 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 6801 Delmar Boulevard
Council Chambers, 5th Floor
University City, Missouri 63013

A meeting of the Human Relations Commission Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 5th Floor of City Hall, 6801 Delmar Blvd., University City, MO 63130

Members in Attendance: Kathy McGinnis, Jackie Womack, Charmaine Glenn,
Meg McClelland, Matthew Nosko, David Olander

Others in Attendance: Elaine Williams – Staff Liaison
Paulette Carr – City Councilmember

Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda with two additions and some minor corrections. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the Human Relations meeting from January 17, 2013. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Chairman Comments

Chair Person McGinnis informed the board that Richard Dockett was being honored for his work in the community for civil rights. She recommended that the Human Relations Board put a statement on the website that to acknowledge him for so many years of service and to congratulate him on this.

Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson (Two Year Term)

The By-Laws state that the Board shall elect one of its members as Chairperson, one as a Vice-Chairperson, and a Secretary. A motion that Chairperson McGinnis and Matthew Fillo Vice Chairperson be re-elected for another Two-Year Term starting January 17, 2013 was approved. Jackie was voted as Secretary

Real Talk

Mr. Olander spoke with the City Manager and about hearing about Real Talk. The Commission approved the Real Talk Endorsement that will be forwarded to the City Manager for review. Once approved, it will be posted on the City of University City's website under Human Relations.

Faces of U-City Bring the idea to Fair U-City people

Mayor Welsh will bring the idea to involve the Human Relations Commission with Fair U-City in hopes for the fair organizers to work with the Committee on events for Fair U-City, 2013. If approval is given it may be possible for both to work together on projects. An idea was to

possibly plan to work on events for next year (2014), due to the time constraints. Biggest con about moving it to the Loop area will probably be losing all rides except the kiddie rides. It was noted that the recreational center of University is not the Loop, but in fact Heman Park, which could probably result with better attendance.

Board member David Olander spoke about having a conference in the library or another meeting area to discuss racial justice/race relations in U. City. In the past, he worked with U-City United, who had a facilitator, and it was a very good meeting. The diverse conference attracted an audience of about 50 people, lasted about an hour and half and the discussion spoke on a lot of culture and race issues.

Board member McClelland mentioned a multi-cultural work shop that she is part of. The workshop has an agenda that discusses isms and various issues. The topics are different at each session and each session is composed of different groups of people. Based upon what Fair U-City says about the Commission's involvement, this could be a time for some short good start up conversations and perhaps something positive can follow. If fair U-City says we can go with them this year, perhaps we can plan for something small. If not, we can start on it for now, for next year.

Chairperson McGinnis asked if the Commission decided to go to a city council meeting, perhaps we may want to talk about it some more, to ensure that we have enough to present to the Board.

Juvenile Conference Committee

Michele Meyers was the spokesperson for the Juvenile Conference Committee. One of the main objectives of this committee is to effectively handle first time, non-violent referrals to the Family Court. Such offenses might include shoplifting, trespassing, possession of marijuana or alcohol, receiving stolen property, attempted theft or theft, simple assault, disorderly conduct or property damage. She handed out Fact Sheets on the JCC Process, the Expectation, Fee (none) and how the overall benefits can affect the victim, the community, the family, the juvenile, and to the law enforcement /family court.

Chairperson McGinnis informed her the Human Relations Committee would help to get the word out and to let people in the community know that it is coming to the University City School District and that they are in need for volunteers to serve on the Committee.

Prep for City Council Meeting.

The Committee decided to prolong the idea on going to the City Council, until they know for sure how they would present themselves to the Board. The goal is to let people know what we are doing, and hopefully, they will be glad to hear about us, and perhaps they can get some response.

Council Liaison Report

Council Member Car reminded us that the proclamation would be on January 19, 2013 for Mr. Docket. She informed the committee that a Town Hall Meeting was scheduled to convene on Sunday, for residents and anyone with an interest to come out and listen to topics that would be brought up, for example information on the Trolley can be provided that could perhaps explain why the traffic is mitigated, and the ordinance on it.

Mission Statement

The Committee decided to work more on narrowing down the current Mission Statement. More discussion is needed because the statement does not include sexual orientation, for example, however, not all statements can include all the issues. Committee member Nosko will bring in some wording at the next meeting.

Publicizing Human Relations Commission

Council Member Carr wanted the committee to be sure on what they would be asking the City Council to do. The Committee's main focus is to let the City Council know that they do exist and can be asked upon to deliver on an issue that may arise in their meetings. Council Member Carr stated she will mention their existence to the City Council, and if there are any minutes, she will attach and present it to the board.

Orthodox and the Jewish Community

The Committee recognized the issue between the School Board and the Orthodox Jewish Community because of a vote of the School Board not to sell the McNair property, which the Orthodox Community wants to buy. There were some charges of anti-Semitism.

The Human Relations Committee's goal is to try to facilitate an open facilitated conversation about the issue, probably with representatives from the School Board and the Orthodox community. Mcg McClelland volunteered to find a facilitator for such a conversation.

A motion was made to go forward and move ahead with the conversation as outlined above. It was approved.

Next meeting dates: March 21, 2013-Did not convene

April 23, July 23 and October 22, 2013.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.