

MEETING MINUTES OF THE
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall, 6801 Delmar Boulevard
University City, Missouri 63130

A meeting of the Human Relations Commission Meeting was called to order on March 21, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 5th Floor of City Hall, 6801 Delmar, University City, Missouri 63130

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

Members Absence: Matthew Nosko

Others in Attendance: Paulette Carr - City Councilmember
Elaine Williams - Staff Liaison
John Doggett, Community Mediator

Agenda

A motion was made to approve the March 21st, 2013 agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Minutes

The scheduled February 21, 2013 Human Relations Meeting was cancelled.

Real-Talk

Mr. Walker has reviewed the approved draft endorsement for Real Talk. It will be posted on the Human Relations Committee website. Victor and Mr. Muhammad should be notified after it is posted.

Council Liaison Report

Approved a conditional permit for trolley. Construction permits. Still looking at setting up a mock Round A-Bout. Mr. Sharp is in the process of appointing a person to the Human Relations Commission. Perhaps in the next three months.

Celebration of Diversity

Fair U-City has decided that a new emphasis on diversity (something like Faces of U City) is not an option for the Fair this year. The date of the Fair will be in September this year. A suggestion to sponsor a conversation on race was made. A Town Hall Meeting format could be used--this wouldn't necessarily have to be connected to Fair U-City.

Dave Olander moved to invite the Mayor to our next meeting to discuss our idea about a conversation on race in U-City. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The Board suggested perhaps surfacing some things that we might think could be part of the conversation. Process and format needs to be decided. Conversation with Mayor Welsch will help us figure out how we are going to do this meeting. Guidance is needed for a moderator and facilitator.

Mission Statement

The Board is still working on this matter

National Day of Remembrance

Mayor Welsch asked if anyone would be willing to work with her on this. The National Day of Remembrance observance, focused on remembering the Holocaust, is the second week of April. On April 10, 2013, a guest speaker, Ms. Sarah Moses will speak at this event. There is also a group called "Hate Breakers" which will make a presentation at U-City schools. They are a general group that promotes tolerance and respect. Program is well set, and perhaps the Board could attend this meeting and perhaps inform the public about it. For next year, the Board could perhaps find ways for kids and adults, or perhaps put something out on the webpage recommending some books and movies that relate to the Holocaust which would teach about it.

Community Mediator -School Board and Orthodox Jewish Community

Meg opened up the discussion by telling the Board that there had been some negative statements that School Board members were hearing from the Orthodox Jewish Community. This all started out with the Orthodox Community wanting the School Board to sell them the McNair Building. The Human Relations Committee would like to know if they can offer some assistance by helping to facilitate a conversation between the School Board and representatives of the Orthodox Jewish Community.

The Commission agreed that a formal invitation from Human Relations Commission to the School Board Superintendent and an identifiable leader from the Orthodox Jewish Community needed to happen. The objective for this meeting is for people to know that they have been heard. This would be an open meeting that would be advertised with hopes for a unified presence.

Mr. Doggett would be willing to provide guidance on structuring a meeting to help bring both groups to the table to talk.

The Commission agreed to invite people out to a conversation in mid-May, 2013. Meg will contact the School Board; Dave will contact Steve Kraft for an idea about a representative from the Orthodox community.

INVITATION FROM ST. CHARLES HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

We have been invited to participate in a panel for a workshop at the Missouri History Museum, along with the St. Charles and Kirkwood HR Commissions. Meg and Kathy will participate.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M

NEXT MEETING DATE

April 18, 2013