

Minutes of Meeting
Human Relations Meeting
October 17, 2013

A meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order at 6:50 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 5th Floor of City Hall, 6801 Delmar Blvd., University City, MO 63130

Members in Attendance: Kathy McGinnis, Angelene Hayes, Meg McClelland
Jackie Womack

Members Excused: Matthew Nosko, David Olander

Other in Attendance: Elaine Williams-Board Secretary
Lehman Walker - City Manager

Agenda

The agenda was accepted as amended. We added under New Business: Disability Rights as number 5.

Minutes

The September 19, 2013 meeting minutes were accepted as amended.

Old Business

Conversation on Race - Commission Retreat

Mr. Walker joined us for this conversation. He referred us to the Rules of Conduct and Transaction of Business, specifically to Rule #9. On an issue like the Commission Retreat, we do not have to seek City Council approval. There is an expenditure of funds, but it would be well within the City Manager's ability to approve the amount of money we are seeking. Mr. Walker suggested we revise our proposal about the Commission retreat, and indicate a possible budget, that would include a "not to exceed" amount. Also, we should involve and communicate the benefits to the Community about the Board having this retreat. The Board should bring it back to the next Commission meeting and submit it to the City Manager's office, with some possible suggestions about to whom the RFPs should be sent.

Discussion

Request for Proposal must be revised and sent to the City Manager. Revise it and vote on it at the next meeting. A draft should be circulated to members.

Mediation Center and Police Department

Mr. Walker did talk to Chief Adams about the incident. The response was that it is premature for now, and can be brought back to the table in several months.

Racial Profiling Complaint

Ms. Dolores Mills came to the meeting and talked about her complaint about racial profiling and had a question about the practice of officers giving a summons on top of a traffic ticket to her son. She felt it was racial profiling partly because of the attitude of the officer. Ms. Mills felt everything would have been different if she and her son were not African American.

Discussion

Mr. Walker stated he would get back with her.

Citizen Comments

With regard to the retreat—it is asking for an expenditure of tax payer money; therefore, it has to be open to the public.

Mr. Walker confirmed this to be correct, and that it has to be open meeting, so that it is in no violation of the Sunshine Laws.

Mission Statement Brochure

Goals and statement are already worked out.

Board Member Hayes has volunteered to work on this.

New Business

Disability Rights

Spokesperson from a group called Loop Advocacy Committee talked to the Commission about access issues, about how things are stated on the website and about an idea for promoting U. City as a community that respects diversity.

1. A suggestion was made to add “disability, sexual orientation and sexual identity” to the explanation on the website. **A motion was made and passed to do this.**
2. A suggestion was made to explore the possibility of putting up a banner on Delmar that says, “please respect our diversity and enjoy your visit.” **A motion was made and passed to pursue this.** Board member Glenn will take the lead in exploring this.
3. A suggestion was made to explore the possibility of making it accessible to get into the playground in Ackert Park—near the fountain with the dolphins. **A motion was made and passed to talk to Mr. Walker about that.**

New Business

Conference in Kirkwood

A flyer was sent out for a upcoming conference hosted by the Human Rights Commission of Kirkwood on October 19th. Rev. Starsky Wilson will be the main speaker. Board member Womack said he would go to represent the Commission.

Council Liaison Report

Nothing was reported.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

The next meeting is November 21, 2013.