



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Commission on Human Rights

Tuesday, October 1, 2024
5:30 PM

Regular

Conference Room
1A/1B
Columbia City Hall
701 E. Broadway

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Amanda Hinnant called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Present:

Amanda Hinnant
Liz Townsend Bird
Penny Kuhns-Knarr
Meera Sood
Astrid Villamil
Stephanie Yoakum
Paige Lubbering

Members of the Public:

Gunjan Singh
Latoya Jones
Chriss Jones

Excused:

Liz Townsend Bird

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Amanda Hinnant moved to approve the agenda. Stephanie Yoakum seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes from 09 03 2024

Attachments: [09 September 03 HRC Meeting Minutes-Draft](#)

Amanda Hinnant motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Penny Kuhns-Knarr seconded the motion. Amanda Hinnant moved to amend meeting minutes to update that Paige Lubbering was not present during the meeting, Astrid Villamil seconded motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Closed Meeting Minutes 09 03 2024

Amanda moved to approved the closed meeting minutes. Astrid Villamil seconded the motion. Paige Lubbering and Stephanie Yoakum abstained.

Yes: 4 - Hinnant, Sood, Villamil and Kuhns-Knarr

Excused: 1 - Townsend Bird

Abstain: 2 - Yoakum and Lubbering

V. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioners' revision to the Complaint Form

Staff advised the Commissioners that the revisions have been reviewed by the Law Department. The Law Department indicated that they only had one change to the complaint form. Staff advised that they will work with IT and Creative Services to have the form updated online and through the PDF printable version.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Guest Speaker – Jennifer Savage (The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri)

Penny Kuhns-Knarr mentioned that she got the dates mixed up and advised Jennifer Savage, with the Food Bank, that she can present during the next meeting. Staff mentioned that Becky Thompson, Neighborhood & Housing Services Director, will actually be the guest speaker for the November meeting. Penny Kuhns-Knarr mentioned that she will communicate with Jennifer Savage to see if she will be available to come speak with the Commission during the December meeting.

Mid-MO Pride Fest Recap

Astrid Villamil mentioned that the beginning of the Pride Fest event was slower because the parade was still going on when the Commission's booth was set up. Astrid Villamil mentioned that the Pride Fest event allowed for greater visibility for the Commission on Human Rights which is a positive influence. Penny Kuhns-Knarr mentioned that there was more foot traffic for attendees on Saturday than Sunday, but Astrid Villamil indicated that 12 pm to 2 pm was pretty busy. Amanda Hinnant mentioned the difficulty in participating in the Pride Fest Parade because Commissioners wouldn't be able to have deep conversation with the parade attendees.

Columbia Values Diversity Breakfast

The Commissioners mentioned wanting to wait until the next meeting to decide on the sponsorship level that they would provide for the breakfast. Commissioners requested that this be tabled until the next meeting in November.

HREP Proposals

The Commissioners mentioned that they would like to see if the teacher with Hickman High School would be willing to open up the event to the public to be able to attend. Staff will follow-up with the teacher and see if this can be a possibility as a part of the HREP request. Amanda Hinnant motioned to approve the request for \$500.00 for the Hickman High School Tibetan Culture with Champa Lhunpo event.

Stephanie Yoakum seconded the motion. The Motion unanimously approved.

VII. REPORTS

CPRB

Stephanie Yoakum mentioned that she will renew her commitment to the CPRB as a representative for the Commission on Human Rights. There will be several new appointments since the current Commissioners terms will be ending.

Other Reports

No new reports at this time.

VIII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Gunjan Singh shared more about his background as a Human Rights advocate in India and expressed that he would gladly be available to support the Commission on Human Rights if the need is there. Stephanie Yoakum mentioned supporting Mid-Missouri Legal Services as a way to support low income residents with legal services pro-bono. Chriss Jones mentioned that there are several applicants that have been told that Housing Providers are not accepting Section 8 Housing Vouchers. Chriss Jones mentioned that she will advise residents that she runs into to fill out the Human Rights Commission Compliant form and have them complete the paper version of the form and submit back to the City.

IX. MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

Meera Sood moved to go into closed session at 6:15 p.m. Stephanie Yoakum seconded the motion.

Amanda Hinnant moved to come out of closed session at 7:19 p.m. Meera Sood seconded the motion.

Yes: 6 - Hinnant, Sood, Villamil, Yoakum, Lubbering and Kuhns-Knarr

Excused: 1 - Townsend Bird

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting November 6, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Amanda Hinnant motioned to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Meera Sood seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

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