



# LEE'S SUMMIT MISSOURI

## City of Lee's Summit, MO Human Relations Commission

Summary of the September 25, 2023 Meeting

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### **Members Present:**

Vanessa Hickman  
Tony Meyer  
Debbie Brooks  
Saadia Mahmood  
Kerrie Lindberg  
Maria Morgan

### **Members Absent:**

Astra Garner  
Dr. Fel Bagunu  
Jennifer Novagratz  
Christy Engemann  
Anne Wallace

### **City Staff:**

Fred Lane  
Trisha Fowler Arcuri  
Anita Dickey

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### **Call to order**

Chairperson Hickman called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

### **3. Member Introductions**

Chairperson Hickman asked everyone to introduce themselves to the new Commissioner, Debbie Brooks, again.

### **4. Approval of the August 28, 2023 meeting summary**

A motion was made by Kerrie Lindberg, seconded by Tony Meyer, to approve the Action Letter dated August 28, 2023. The motion passed by a unanimous 6-0 vote (Commissioners "Absent": Astra Garner, Dr. Fel Baunu, Jennifer Novogoratz, Christy Engemann and Anne Wallace).

### **5. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **6. Discuss Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration**

Chairperson Hickman stated UCM will be partnering with them for this event and it will be held on January 15, 2024 at the John Knox Pavilion. The Commission discussed some possible key note speakers. Chairperson Hickman asked everyone to email her with their ideas so they could discuss at the next meeting. She stated Mayor Baird will be giving a 10-minute Welcome / Introduction speech to kick things off.

Other things discussed:

- Theme: "Living the dream, it starts with me" or "Hope, Courage & Community"
- Color Guard – ½ fire / ½ police
- UCM Choir – Black National Anthem (name of choir needed for program)



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- City making programs & t-shirts (Chairperson to confirm wording)
- International Student organization to provide vendors
- Total budgeted for this event by the City \$5000
- Money - Not much yet – expect to spend around \$3000
- Donations: City can't take donations because it would go into the general fund and would have to be budgeted – The City can't solicit funds for any programs like this.
  - HRC can seek funding from charitable services – can't go through City hands
  - Mr. Mark Dunning, City Manager, is checking into how it (donations) can be done (Chairperson Hickman is working with Mark and will provide guidance.)

### **7. Discuss Cultural Celebration**

Chairperson Hickman is discussing more with Mr. Dunning as he wants to be part of the planning with more open conversation and having the City be more involved. She stated he wants more man power into developing this event. She will provide more information after discussing with him.

### **8. Discuss Diversity & Inclusion Commission's proposal**

Saadia Mahmood provided a brief review of the D&I presentation to the Council and how it was received by Council. Chair Hickman stated HRC will now continue the work of the D&I Commission. She asked everyone to look at roles of HRC to determine what they should be doing moving forward. Many people were surprised by pushback by Council but they need to be ready to have the uncomfortable conversations / confrontations. Next step – Council to discuss where it goes from here with HRC.

### **9. Discuss becoming an Autism Certified City**

Kerrie Lindberg has given a proposal to Chairperson Hickman. She will keep working with her to keep moving this forward as well as working with Autism Certified Foundations. She feels this is great for business attraction and community partnerships. The Commission as a whole is supportive and looking forward to moving forward.

### **10. Roundtable**

Each Commissioner was called on to provide comments.

Chairman Hickman stated the Youth Wellness day was scheduled for last Saturday, September 23, 2023, but due to the rain and hail it was canceled. It will be rescheduled to an indoor venue. Tentative date of rescheduling is Saturday, October 21, 2023.

Chairman Hickman also stated she appreciates the City Manager supporting their work and being mindful of their efforts.

### **11. Adjournment**

Chairperson Hickman adjourned the September 25, 2023 meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Trisha Fowler Arcuri