



LEE'S SUMMIT MISSOURI

City of Lee's Summit, MO Human Relations Commission

Summary of the February 26, 2018 Meeting

Members Present:

Dale Beasley
Kimberly Alonzo
Susan Coffman
Ben Tonga
Evonne Medrano

City Staff:

Nick Edwards
Colene Roberts

1. Call to order

Mr. Beasley called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

2. Approval of August 28, 2017 meeting summary

The meeting summary for August 28, 2017 was approved.

3. Public Comments

None.

4. On-Boarding new members

Commissioners introduced themselves.

5. Review of Ordinance presented to the Rules Committee

Mr. Edwards provided copies of the requested changes to the ordinance governing HRC membership. The Rules Committee voted to recommend approval to the City Council. The amendment will increase the size of the Commission by an additional four members, remove the requirement for student members, create an attendance policy for Commissioners, and simplify language regarding officer elections and quorum. The Commission can still recruit non-voting student members but they will no longer be required by ordinance. HRC can also broaden the criteria for student members.

6. Social media report

None.

7. Recognition of diversity in local businesses

The Commission has discussed recognizing local businesses in some way, through social media or an awards program: "How diverse is your workplace?" Nominations could be solicited via Facebook. Businesses could receive a window sticker, a rotating plaque, or be named on a plaque at City Hall. Criteria for selecting businesses will be needed. Criteria could be discussed with the community on social media. Mr. Tonga volunteered to research other HRCs' awards programs. Ms. Coffman said that LS Cares uses the Rotary Four-Way Test to select their Business of Ethics winners. Ms. Alonzo will start a Google Doc for Commissioners to share ideas on criteria. Mr. Beasley suggested creating



a draft letter to businesses to inform them of the program. Ms. Coffman said that mailing labels to approximately 800 Lee's Summit businesses are available from the Lee's Summit Chamber. The Commission voted to approve spending \$100 to purchase pre-printed mailing labels to Lee's Summit businesses from the Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Beasley suggested launching the program in the summer. Ms. Medrano stated that citizens should also be notified of the program so they can seek out businesses that have been recognized.

8. Recap MLK 2018 Event

Mr. Beasley said that the event went very well. Attendance was good; approximately 350. Dr. Carpenter was a great speaker. It will be difficult to top the event next year. Ms. Coffman suggested having dancers again. Commissioners discussed bringing in more vendors. This was the first year that vendors were set up at the event. Mr. Beasley said that planning for next year has already been discussed. Ms. Coffman said that UMKC had a forum on diversity last week and that could be a good place to look for a potential speaker. A staff member from Lee's Summit R-7 School District has joined the planning committee and will help with the essay contest for next year's event.

9. Planning for Community Conversations Spring 2018

Mr. Beasley said that the April date will have to be postponed. The topic for this second event is fair housing. Discussions could center on racial discrimination or the lack of affordable housing. Link 2 Lee's Summit recently had a podcast on fair housing. Ms. Coffman mentioned that the Community for All Ages Committee has discussed fair housing as well. There are issues of ageism and classism in housing. The goal of the event is to educate citizens on the issues of diverse housing. Ms. Coffman suggested using a model of a diverse community to discuss best practices. Commissioners will continue to share ideas online and look at a target date in July. Commissioners can also share ideas for future topics for Community Conversations events.

10. Roundtable

Mr. Edwards has the invitation for the Diplomatic Ball. The City will purchase tickets for Commissioners who would like to attend. Commissioners may bring a guest by purchasing an extra ticket through the City. Commissioners should let Mr. Edwards know if they would like to attend. Mr. Edwards also stated that the City will be hiring a new Human Resources Director soon. The new hire will take over as staff liaison to HRC.

11. Items for the agenda of the next scheduled HRC meeting on March 26, 2018

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Colene Roberts