



# LEE'S SUMMIT MISSOURI

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

Summary of the February 25, 2019 Meeting

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**Members Present:**

Dale Beasley  
Evonne Medrano  
Vanessa Workcuff  
Karen Schuler  
Ben Tonga  
Tony Meyer

**City Staff:**

Anita Dickey  
Colene Roberts

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**1. Call to order**

Mr. Beasley called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**2. Approval of the December 10, 2018 meeting summary**

The summary of the last meeting was approved.

**3. Public Comments**

None.

New members were welcomed and everyone introduced themselves.

**4. MLK 2019 Recap**

Mr. Beasley said that the event was excellent. Approximately 640 people attended. There weren't enough chairs. A few people expressed interest in joining the community choir next year. The Mayor's speech was heart felt and touched on some difficult challenges. The vendors had nice displays and the t-shirts were great. People seemed very engaged. The MLK committee is already talking about a speaker for next year. They will meet again after a short break. The committee tries to choose a theme each year that resonates with Lee's Summit. Next year, they could pick up on LSR7's equity plan. Board members are encouraged to share any ideas with the committee. Mr. Beasley wondered if it would be possible to put some of the speech text up on the screen in other languages.

**5. Updating 2013 survey data**

The survey data was not available.

**6. International festival**

Mr. Tonga reported that the festival will be held in April 2020. The entrance fee will be \$5. LS Cares, the Chamber and the International students from Summit Technology are all working on the festival. They are looking for a way to get elementary students involved. There are 30 different languages spoken in Lee's Summit elementary schools. It would be nice to include all of those



languages. Ms. Medrano suggested that the committee could contact the LSNHS marketing class for help with advertising.

**7. Election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair**

Mr. Beasley was nominated for Chair. Ms. Medrano was nominated for Vice Chair. The Commission voted to elect both nominees.

**8. Public education campaign on affordable housing**

Mr. Tonga said that it would be interesting to review the data from the Ignite surveys. There will be a lot of discussion surrounding future land use and development. Land owned by the LDS church is being opened up for development. The apartment development project that received so much media and public scrutiny over the past few months was recently denied. The topic of affordable housing seems to come up frequently. There are a lot of misconceptions. Ms. Workcuff said that Hillcrest residents span many different types of employment from restaurant jobs to federal government office jobs.

**9. Roundtable**

Ms. Medrano said that Multi Cultural Night is being held on Thursday at 5:30pm at Lee's Summit Elementary on Green Street. There will be 15 booths sharing food, games, music, clothing, etc. from different cultures. Many of the presenters are LSE families. Mid Continent Public Library will also be there.

Ms. Medrano stated that LSE was recently invited to participate in a story by the Kansas City Star on diversity. The article took a very different turn than the school was led to believe and painted the school in a negative light. LSE is the most diverse of all Lee's Summit schools. LSE had hoped that their diversity would be celebrated in the piece.

Ms. Medrano reported that LSR7 voted to approve their equity plan at the last Board meeting.

Mr. Beasley welcomed the new Board members and said that he would like to see HRC as a voice for Lee's Summit, helping to have crucial conversations in the community.

Ms. Medrano offered to invite a speaker from Suburban Balance to the next meeting.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Colene Roberts