



# LEE'S SUMMIT MISSOURI

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

Summary of the July 22, 2019 Meeting

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**Members Present:**

Evonne Medrano  
Vanessa Workcuff  
Karen Schuler  
Tony Meyer  
Ben Tonga

**City Staff:**

Anita Dickey  
Colene Roberts

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**1. Call to order**

Ms. Medrano called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

**2. Approval of the June 24, 2019 meeting summary**

The summary of the last meeting was approved.

**3. Public Comments**

None.

**4. LSR7 Equity Plan**

Ms. Medrano said that she did not invite a speaker from LSR7 because it looked like the Commission would be spending a large portion of the meeting working on the survey. Also, staff is still dealing with several large issues. She will invite someone to the next meeting, after school starts. She also mentioned past Commissioner Edgar Palacios and his foundation to encourage Latino educators to stay in education.

**5. LS Ignite Update**

Ms. Dickey provided draft copies of the plan. The City Council will review the plan next month. City staff is looking at the goals of each department and seeing how they fit in with the plan. The update of the city's comprehensive land use plan is coming up soon. It will likely include some mention of affordable housing. Affordable housing is mentioned several times in the Community Strategic Plan Summary Report. Ms. Schuler also noted a suggestion in the Community Input section that says HRC should be expanded to include the "human service advisory board and all groups." Commissioners discussed how they could help with the "spirit of community" mentioned in the plan. Ms. Workcuff suggested promoting a Pay It Forward day. Commissioners liked the idea of helping to spread positivity within the community. Ms. Workcuff and Ms. Schuler will work on a proposal. Ms. Dickey noted that MCPL has been looking to partner on more events. She also stated that someone recently pointed out that HRC is supposed to prepare an annual report for the Mayor. HRC could prepare a brief City Council presentation on upcoming events, later in the year.

**6. Diversity Survey**



Commissioners agreed that it would be best to hold off on the survey for a brief time. Citizens have been asked to respond to a number of surveys over the past year. Participation in surveys may be waning.

**7. International festival**

Mr. Tonga said that the last planning committee meeting he attended was probably around six weeks ago. As Ms. Coffman reported last month, the date and location are set and 7 to 8 performing groups have been scheduled already. He added that it should be a great event. The Arts Council, the Chamber, and students from Summit Technology's International Business program have tackled the project with enthusiasm. The planning committee will likely need help from HRC in getting school kids involved, possibly in performances. Mr. Tonga shared the event logo created by Chamber staff.

**8. Roundtable**

Commissioners voiced support for creating a Pay It Forward or kindness event and getting schools and churches involved.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Colene Roberts