



LEE'S SUMMIT MISSOURI

City of Lee's Summit, MO Human Relations Commission

Summary of the January 27, 2020 Meeting

Members Present:

Dale Beasley
Vanessa Workcuff
Karen Schuler
Tony Meyer
Roby Little
Evonne Medrano

City Staff:

Colene Roberts

1. Call to order

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

2. Approval of October 29, 2019 and December 2, 2019 meeting summaries

The meeting summaries for October and December, 2019 were approved.

3. Public Comments

None.

4. MLK 2020 Recap

Mr. Beasley said that the event was good. The student speaker was excellent. Ms. Medrano said that the District shared a video of the student's speech via email. Ms. Medrano will forward to Commissioners. Ms. Workcuff loved the youth presence at the event. Mr. Meyer liked the set up this year. He said there were a lot of volunteers and the performers were great. Ms. Schuler said it was nice to see seniors there too. Ms. Workcuff noted that the t-shirts were a hit. Mr. Meyer suggested that more publicity is needed for next year. People still say that they don't know about the event. Mr. Beasley said that 500 seats were set up this year and it was near capacity. The planning committee will start working on the speaker for next year early. Commissioners should share any suggestions. He also noted that two service awards will be given next year. Ms. Schuler said that City staff have suggested added a music performer to draw attendance.

5. Take Time to Be Kind promotion

Ms. Schuler brought buttons, posters and fliers for Commissioners to distribute. The Mayor announced Take Time to Be Kind at the Character Breakfast last week. There were about 700 attendees. The video was shown. There are only a couple of weeks to get the word out. The billboards are up. A lot of social media publicity is planned. Commissioners would like to be able to share the video on Facebook. Ms. Little is working on an article on examples of kindness. Mr. Meyer suggested setting up Take Time to Be Kind as an event on the City's Facebook page.

6. International festival



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Mr. Beasley said that there is not enough support to tackle creating an event like an international festival at this time. He asked Commissioners what could be accomplished this year instead. Ms. Medrano suggested bringing back the idea of recognizing businesses for diversity. Commissioners discussed what would be needed for an awards program: application or nomination process, a plaque or trophy, award criteria, a name for the award, and timeframe for recognition. Other ideas were also shared. Ms. Schuler suggested that HRC support events that are already taking place in the schools or elsewhere in the community. Ms. Medrano recommended Red Ribbon Week. Ms. Schuler also mentioned events like Downtown Days or the art fair. Mr. Beasley suggested holding a coat drive or food drive. Commissioners were supportive of all of the ideas. Mr. Meyer recommended moving ahead with business recognition, targeting this summer for a start. Ms. Schuler suggested a budget of approximately \$500. Mr. Beasley said that a budget increase may be needed for MLK next year, too. The planning committee is hoping to bring in a famous speaker.

7. City Council presentation

Mr. Beasley said that Ms. Dickey was going to check available dates.

8. Roundtable

Mr. Beasley stated that he received an email from Canise Salinas. She is resigning from the Commission due to work/school time commitments. In order to fill a vacancy, the Commission can recommend someone to the Mayor but he ultimately makes the appointment. Commissioners should share the names of anyone they would like to recommend.

Ms. Workcuff shared some information about Hillcrest. They house the working homeless. They accept volunteers of all ages. They rely on support in the form of care packages, sponsorships, and even group work projects like their new garden.

Ms. Schuler said that a project she has been working on for the past year, launched last week. It's a partnership with Herndon Career Center, University of Central Missouri, Community Services League, and Truman Heartland Community Foundation. The program provides job training for adults. More information can be found at newskills.cslcares.org.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Colene Roberts