

# **Advisory Commission on Human Relations & Disability Issues**

## **Meeting Minutes**

March 5, 2018

Members present: Jim Echols, Jessie Alvarez, Valorie Wells-Fenton, Don Jolley, Kendall McReynolds, Tom Alonzo, Wendy Baker, Kim Dominic, Winnifred Manning, (Quorum Present), Ryan Haga-Assistant County Attorney, Maritza Fernandez-Staff Liaison, Phyllis Wallace-Staff Liaison

Absent: Karen Greenwood, Janice Santiago

Visitors: Michael Kelley-BikeWalkKC, Jenny Alvarez

- I. Meeting opened at 5:40 by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Present Jim Echols
- II. Approval of minutes from December meeting: Motion by Wendy Baker. Second by Tom Alonzo. Motion Carried.
- III. Membership Changes – Cassandra Long has resigned. Still lacking Mayor’s appointee. Ryan clarified that generally, appointees’ terms coincide with those of the person who appointed them.
- IV. Presentations & Reports

- A. Guest speaker - Michael Kelley - Policy Coordinator, BikeWalkKC

Bike Walk KC – Non Profit working to improve opportunities for cyclist and walkers in KC,

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design – Trying to apply concepts to help make areas safer

Complete streets: Ordinance passed in KCMO – Looking at and planning streets to include all modes of transportation. Trying to get approved in KCK

Landscape Analysis: Wyco is part of Phase 1 – Currently investigating how different committees can help develop a database of resources.

Q: How does the information get out? A: Currently gathering information to be a tool to help get word out about committees like ours.

Q: Sidewalks are severely lacking in our community. Are individuals with disabilities being considered in the Complete Streets program? A: In KCMO they worked with AARP. Comment: Please consider different disabilities other than those related to aging (AARP focus).

Q: What streets are targeted? A: Primarily new construction. Piecemeal whenever new streets are planned or scheduled for redesign.

Q: Are you proposing an ordinance? A: Not at this time. Project is in very early stages and they are just trying to make us aware that they exist.

- B. Reports

1. Special Committee on Law Enforcement - Jim Echols

Wanted to see if Phyllis could arrange for a meeting with Mayor Alvey. Wants to get Mayor's vision and expectations for our commission or any subcommittees. Would like to inform the Mayor that we would like to perform this study and get his sanction for this activity. Will send an email to Phyllis to set up a meeting or extend an invitation to the mayor to attend our meeting. Don, Winnifred, and Valorie are serving on the committee with Jim. Hopefully there will be some clarification by the April meeting. Committee to work with assessing diversity opportunities for hiring, retention, and upward mobility within law enforcement community. We want to work collaboratively with the departments. Police departments need to be representative of the communities they serve.

Phyllis will be meeting with the Mayor on Wednesday, March 7. She will inform him of the things we have been discussing. Our commission's contact with the Mayor will be through whoever his appointee is.

Until we have that position filled, it may be premature to address this with the Mayor. Jim recommended that we table any action until such time as the position is filled.

2. Concerns were raised that our commission is not listed on the UG email that goes out weekly. We may not be ready to be fully open to the public, especially without the appointment of a chair.
3. KCKPD - KU Partnership on Youth Violence update - Kendall McReynolds -No report
4. Legislative Training Session (12/18/17) - Tom Alonzo – No report
5. MLK Celebration (1/15/18) – No report
6. Cultural Proficiency Training (1/23/18) – Good participation from our commission. Jim has had some critiques, but there was benefit. Jim will provide a manual for Don, who was unable to attend.
7. Black History Banquet (2/17/18)- Jim, Valorie, Phyllis, and Jessie attended

#### V. Old Business

- A. Review Strategic Plan – Work in progress
- B. Facebook- With Cassandra gone, who is doing the Facebook page. Wendy has some items to be added. Kim and Tom offered to be Facebook editors. Phyllis will set up access.
- C. Pamphlet - Jessie – No report
- D. Status of Nondiscrimination Ordinance development - Ryan Haga – Work in progress, hoped to have draft for today, but will definitely have it for next meeting. Hopes to distribute for our comments a week ahead, then it will go to the Administrator's office, and after their review it will be determined if it will go to the Commission.
- E. Bio Templates – Maritza is working on that and needs bios for everyone and would like to have those by the next meeting.
- F. Next Meet & Greet – South Branch Library – need a date. Perhaps we should postpone until we have a pamphlet. Tom will work with Jessie on it to get final draft for next meeting. Phyllis will contact the library and look at open dates. Looking at early May. Valorie will poll group to see what date is best. Wednesday, May 16 may work for most.
- G. Other old Business
  1. Commission social- Mason Jar- Tom will coordinate by email for some time in April

2. Tom asked about an informational poster to be placed in various departments. Tom volunteered to move forward with that. Valorie showed the one that she had developed for the first Meet & Greet.

VI. New business

A. Strategic planning – Pending appointment of Chair

B. Upcoming events

1. 13<sup>th</sup> Annual WyCo Ethnic Festival - April 14, 2018 – at KCKCC. 10 AM-4 PM
2. Wendy has some disability events that she will forward to Phyllis and Kim or Tom for Facebook.
3. Tom suggested that we set up at one of the Farmer's Markets to get our name out there. He will email out the various times and locations.
4. Kim suggested that we need to remember that part of our agenda is also disability issues, and we need to hold that at the forefront.
5. We need to have elections at our April meeting since we didn't have a January meeting.

VII. Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 PM

**NEXT MEETING: April 2, 5:30 PM**