

**Human Rights Commission  
May 6, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Gina Long, Stacye Smith, Scott Dean, Amanda Andrade, and Dalton Calcote.

**Excused Absence:** Elizabeth Miller and Meghanne Thompson

**Staff Present:** Adam Kruse

**Member of the public present.**

- I. **Call to Order/Introductions:** Dean called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Long moved to approve the agenda. Her motion was seconded by Andrade and passed unanimously.
- III. **Approval of April 1, 2014 Meeting Minutes:** Long moved to approve the April 1, 2014 meeting minutes. Her motion was seconded by Andrade and passed unanimously.
- IV. **Old Business:**
  - a. **Domestic Partnership Registry FAQ:** Dean provided the rough draft of the FAQ document to the Commission. The content of the brochure was discussed by the Commission. Once completed, Thompson is going to take the document and make the final brochure.
  - b. **Welcoming Cities Program:** Dean gave an overview of the program and what the commitment level was of the Commission. The City Council said the Commission's proposal sounds great and they want to proceed with joining the program. Kruse is preparing a resolution to join the Welcoming Cities Program to be provided to the City Council.
  - c. **Municipal Equality Index Project:** Dean and Kruse have been in discussions with this group. Dean and Kruse are working on increasing the Human Rights Commission's score.
  - d. **Columbia Fair Housing Seminar:** Kruse said there were about 70 people in attendance. Comment cards received showed that those in attendance enjoyed it. This event will be held again next year.
- V. **New Business:**
  - a. **Discriminatory Impact of Felony Drug Convictions:** City Council has tasked the Human Rights Commission with researching and reporting on the discriminatory impact of felony drug convictions. Mr. Kruse will get crime statistics regarding felony drug arrests/convictions and demographics.
  - b. **Projects:** Andrade asked the group to sign an online petition to show support for the Missouri Non Discrimination Act. Dean made a motion to sign the petition pending approval from the Law Department. Long seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Andrade asked for MO Workplace Equality to be added to the next meeting for discussion.

Andrade said that the Diversity Awareness Project out of St. Louis has been approved. That group will bring a branch to Columbia. They are waiting on a full job description, but they will soon be recruiting for an Executive Director and searching for funding.

**VI. Staff Reports:**

- a. Law Department:** Nothing to report at this time.

**VII. Commission Reports:**

- a. Columbia Citizen Police Review Board:** Dean said they are having a regional meet-up on Saturday, June 21. Topics include the importance of mediation and best practices for review boards in the Midwest. Dean said the Board is waiting on a memo from Chief Burton to send with their ordinance changes to the City Council. He believes they are now all in agreement with the changes. The Board will be meeting in June with a potential mediator.
- b. Disabilities Commission:** Kruse said they are going to look at the medical marijuana issue for those with disabilities. Another priority for them is people without permits parking in handicapped spaces.
- c. Other Reports:** Long reported on CHAMP. Over past year they have identified issues for the community: safe and healthy neighborhoods, healthy lifestyles, access to health care, disparities, and behavioral health. Phase 6 has been put into place which is an action team to address these issues.

Dean and Kruse attended the photo exhibit at the library that the Commission funded with MIRA. It was well attended.

Dean and Kruse attended the movie "Generation Silent" at the Rag Tag. He would like to see if the film could be brought back again to be made available to the Commission or finding another opportunity to show it.

Kruse said he was approached by the Center Project and Ragtag because they want to do an LGBT film around the time of Pridefest. They might ask the Commission for funding for this.

Long said she sent the Commission's annual report to the MCHR.

**VIII. Public Comments:** No member of the public commented.

- IX. Commissioner Comments:** Dean mentioned that a judge in Missouri granted a divorce for a gay couple that was married in Massachusetts. Dean also mentioned that an off-campus housing group has a website and he made sure a link to the Commissions page was added.

**X. Closed Session to Discuss Pending Cases Pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) RSMo:**  
Long made a motion to move to closed session to discuss pending cases pursuant to RSMo § 610.021(1) at 6:16 PM. Long called the roll with the following vote: Calcote – Aye, Andrade – Aye, Smith – Aye, Dean – Aye, Long –Aye.

**XI. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Graham,  
Sr. Administrative Support Assistant  
City of Columbia – Law Department