



Human Relations Commission Minutes

November 26, 2024 4:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Meeting ID: 212 047 608 364

Passcode: 8D9aE2tQ

Dial in by phone

[+1 660-631-8082](tel:+16606318082), [766091308#](tel:+1766091308) United States, Marshall

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Phone conference ID: 766 091 308#

WELCOME

Acting Chair Helen Hurley called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

Members present were Acting Chair Helen Hurley, Mara Bradford, Virginia Hudson, Mindy Meadows, Charlene Taylor and Nina Woodson-Falls. Lupe Moe was absent. Also present were John Mayfield (staff liaison), At-Large Councilmember Bridget McCandless (Councilmember Liaison) and Deputy Police Chief Michelle Sumstad (police liaison).

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 22, 2024

Mara Bradford made a motion to accept the October 22, 2024, meeting minutes as presented.

Mindy Meadows seconded the motion. Motion approved 6-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. MLK Nomination Discussion

Acting Chair Helen Hurley shared with the Commission that it was the time of year to begin the process of selecting the annual Martin Luther King Jr. award. Chair opened the floor for discussion. Mara Bradford nominated Lynne Baker. Chair mentioned Anthony Mondaine and Thad McCullough. as possible award recipients. Councilmember McCandless mentioned Chris Rosson as a potential recipient.

Chair asked the Commission to have their final nominations to John Mayfield by December 13, 2024. A deadline for voting on the award recipient via email will be December 20, 2024. John Mayfield shared that it is his understanding that is how the award process has previously been handled by the Commission.

2. MLK Celebration Discussion

Chair opened the floor for discussion for the MLK Celebration. Chair Hurley shared that Thad McCollough (previous Chair) has previously reached out to Englewood Arts about making the 2025 MLK Award. A deadline of December 20, 2024, should provide enough time to contact the award recipient and have the award work completed. John Mayfield has reached out to Nancy Harris with the Concerned Citizens group that conducts the MLK celebration to offer assistance as needed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Municipal Equality Index

Chair opened the floor for discussion of the 2024 Municipal Equality Index from the Human Rights Campaign in Washington D.C. John Mayfield shared that the City of Independence made significant progress from 2023 to 2024. In 2023 the City of Independence had a score of 17. In 2024 the Human Rights Campaign gave the City of Independence a score of 62. John Mayfield pointed out the work that the Human Relations Commission and staff put in to achieve this outcome.

2. Bylaws Review

Chair opened the floor for discussion regarding bylaws changes regarding meetings under Article VI. Staff recommended meetings occur bimonthly with the option of having special called meetings as currently allowed in the bylaws. Members discussed the timing of the calendar. John Mayfield will check with the City Attorney to determine if Microsoft Teams meetings will be continued to be allowed in accordance with state statutes and policies of the City of Independence. Chair announced she is calling for a Special Meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, to vote on potential bylaws revisions.

ADJOURNMENT

Nina-Woodson Falls made a motion to adjourn. Mindy Meadows seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.