

**MINUTES OF MURRAY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**February 13, 2017**  
**4:00 P.M.**

The Murray Human Rights Commission met in regular session on Monday, February 13, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Chair S. G. Carthell presiding.

**Members Present:** Chair S. G. Carthell, Dr. Peggy Munke, Doris Saunders and Jane Shoemaker and Linda Cherry arriving at 4:08 p.m.

**Members Absent:** Gerald Washington

**Staff Present:** Tonya Guidry

Chair Carthell called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. and welcomed members and guests.

**Old Business:**

The minutes of January 9, 2017, were presented for approval. **Dr. Munke moved; seconded by Ms. Shoemaker.** All members voted aye.

**Ms. Linda Cherry arrives at 4:08 p.m.**

Dr. Munke, Chair of the Committee on Poverty presented an update regarding a tiny house project for use by senior citizens or single persons to eventually transition into public housing. Members discussed grant/funding opportunities, the potential to secure City owned property for the project, as well as maintenance and sustainability issues. Dr. Munke was impressed by Mayor Rose and his efforts to involve a meeting with the city attorney and receive a letter of response within one day. The Housing Authority would play a role as well as the Gentry House. Dr. Munke and Ms. Cherry both were very pleased and encouraged upon their efforts to clear the way for this project to begin and would need to meet with the Gentry House. Ms. Cherry mentioned she had received a recent grant from Lowe's for the Dog Park and perhaps they could assist with a grant for this project.

**Chair's Report**

Chair Carthell talked about the MLK Celebration and was very pleased with over 150 people attended this event and how well it was covered by the press and Local Channel 6. He expressed to the members that he would like to see awards given to recognize people. HRC Awards can be given at the MSU Diversity Achievement Awards, focus groups formed to review the current ordinance, and to be clear of their role and the management of this role as a member of the Human Rights Commission (HRC).

Ms. Saunders mentioned that a person came to her for assistance with a housing issue and at the time with a possible eviction. She did all she could but was told the rest would be handled by the state.

Chair Carthell agreed this was good and that all cases may not fit the Human Rights Commission perimeters but they would certainly listen and perhaps offer another avenue and Dr. Munke stated that

what they would do in the role of the Human Rights Commission would be to help prepare the person or persons with documentation, or statements to present for their case.

Dr. Munke suggested that a city picnic could bring the community together and perhaps look into this event for May 2017.

Ms. Shoemaker mentioned the Human Rights Commission supporting our new businesses in the community. Perhaps host what is expected of new businesses while working with the City of Murray, Chamber of Commerce and Murray State University.

Dr. Munke suggested that in order to reach out to more people, "Interactive TV" would be a good source.

Ms. Cherry wanted our community to be more approachable and had noticed more "No Loitering" signs in town in businesses. Being that we are a "Friendliest Small Town in America" it made us look as though we are not that friendly and welcoming. She talked about getting information out to everyone that we are friendly and have parks available to our community and other areas in our city that are welcoming but many are unaware of these opportunities.

Chair Carthell stated that he would present a timeline for items he would like to take place with the Human Rights Commission (HRC) and present that timeline in the next meeting.

He wanted everyone to be thinking about hosting a community event to bring our community together.

With no further business before the Commission, **Ms. Shoemaker moved to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Saunders.** All members voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.