

Jackson County, Missouri

Commissioners
Howard Lotven, Chairman
Roger Davis
Mary Shannon
Keith Curnutt
Jacquelyn Eidson



Jackson County Courthouse
415 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
(816)881-3670

Ethics, Human Relations, and Citizen Complaints Commission

<p>Meeting Minutes Thursday, June 20th, 2024, at 5:15p.m. Sixth Regular Meeting</p>
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1. Call to Order

Howard Lotven, Chairman, called the sixth regular meeting of the Ethics, Human Relations, and Citizen Complaints Commission to order at 5:16 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present 4 – Howard Lotven, Mary Shannon, Jacquelyn Eidson, Keith Curnutt

Absent 1 – Roger Davis

Excused NONE

A motion was made by Jacquelyn Eidson, seconded by Keith Curnutt to excuse the absence of Mary Shannon from the May 16th, 2024 EHRCC Commission meeting. The motion passed by a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mary Shannon, seconded by Keith Curnutt to approve the absence of Jacquelyn Eidson from the May 16th, 2024, EHRCC Commission meeting. The motion passed by a voice vote.

3. Introduction of OEHRCC Staff and Guests

Present – Director Chris Crawford, Complaint Officer Anita Mackerel, Administrative Assistant Alexandria Gold-Barnes

4. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Keith Curnutt, seconded by Jacquelyn Eidson to approve the April 18th, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion passed by a voice vote.

A motion was made by Jacquelyn Eidson, seconded by Keith Curnutt to approve the May 16th, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion passed by a voice vote.

5. Director's Report

1300 Washington

The county's move into the new administrative building at 1300 Washington has not progressed in several months. Currently, the assessment and BOE departments are using the space on the first floor of the building, but no other associates or departments have moved into the space. Funding for renovations has not been approved and there seems to be some disagreement between the legislature and the county executive about how the building should be used moving forward, and there has been discussion about selling the building and forgoing the move altogether. If the county decides to sell the building, the administration will need to find additional space to rent or purchase for the assessment and BOE staff.

Legislative Updates

OEHRCC met with the legislature's Rules Committee on June 3rd and presented our complaint information for the year so far, as well as observations and recommendations for improvements in county policies. OEHRCC will be meeting with the Rules Committee monthly to ensure the legislature is updated on our work and that the administration, legislature, and OEHRCC are all on the same page to improve the quality of county policies for citizens and associates.

Collection & Assessment

The collection and assessment offices at the Truman Courthouse are fully recovered from the ransomware attack and back to regular operations. Both offices are reserving morning hours (8:00-11:00 am) for previously scheduled appointments, seniors, and physically disabled individuals, with hours from 11:00 am - 5:00 pm open to schedule appointments or walk-in. They have also reopened the QLess scheduling system to help citizens schedule appointments and track wait times and will be opening on the third Saturday of every month. These are all efforts to improve the quality of service to county taxpayers

6. Approval of Case Summaries

Anita Mackerel presented case summaries #24103-24115. There were no questions or comments.

A motion was made by Mary Shannon, seconded by Jacquelyn Eidson to approve the May 16th, 2024 director's report and case summaries. The motion passed by a voice vote.

A motion was made by Keith Curnutt, seconded by Mary Shannon to approve the June 20th, 2024 director's report and case summaries. The motion passed by a voice vote.

7. New Business

NONE

8. Unfinished Business

Several complaints have been made by JCDC staff regarding working conditions and leadership at the detention center. OEHRCC has reached out to the sheriff regarding the complaints but has not made in progress. The sheriff states that certain complaints are included in a federal law enforcement investigation and are not open to discussion. The sheriff is also not currently open to discussions or investigations into the complaints being made that are not included in the federal law enforcement investigation. An invitation was extended to the sheriff to attend the commission's monthly meeting to discuss the complaints but the request was declined. Without the cooperation of the sheriff it is impossible for OEHRCC to investigate the complaints. All complaints and investigations will be forwarded to the human resources department as well as the legislature. Director Crawford will be in contact with the county counselor's office on how to move forward. An open invitation will be extended to the sheriff for discussions into the complaints being made.

An in-person meeting is planned for September/October 2024. All meetings have been held via Zoom since the start of COVID-19. This will give the public the chance to attend a meeting that is not online.

9. Public Comments

NONE

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Keith Curnutt, seconded by Jacquelin Eidson. The motion passed by a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.