

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS COORDINATING COMMISSION MINUTES

March 9, 2015

The Children's Rights Coordinating Commission met at City Hall located at 201 W. Gray Street on the 9th day of March, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. and notice and agenda of the meeting were duly posted 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Commissioners Julie Morris, Jolene Ring, Robin Stafford, Heidi Smith, Chair, and Jon Williford

ABSENT: Commissioners Stacey Bedgood and Pat Valley

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeanne Snider and Deedra Vice

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Item 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE MARCH 9, 2015 MEETING.

Commissioner Stafford moved that the agenda of the March 9, 2015, meeting of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission be approved, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Ring; and the question being upon approving the MARCH 9, 2015, agenda of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Morris, Ring, Stafford, Smith, and Williford

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried; and the agenda of the March 9, 2015, meeting of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission was approved.

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Item 3 being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2014 MEETING.

Commissioner Morris moved that the agenda of the December 15, 2014, meeting of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission be approved, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Stafford; and the question being upon approving the DECEMBER 15, 2014, agenda of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Morris, Ring, Stafford, Smith, and Williford

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried; and the agenda of the December 15, 2014, meeting of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission was approved.

Item 4, being:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2014, MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS COORDINATING COMMISSION.

Commissioner Ring moved that the minutes of the September 15, 2014, meeting of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission be approved, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Stafford; and the question being upon approving the minutes of the September 15, 2014, meeting of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS:	Commissioners Ring, Stafford, Smith, and Williford
ABSTAIN:	Commissioner Morris
NAYES:	None

The Chair declared the motion carried; and the minutes of the September 15, 2014, meeting of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission was approved.

Items submitted for the record:

1. September 15, 2014 minutes of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission

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Item 5, being:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2014, MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS COORDINATING COMMISSION.

Commissioner Stafford moved that the minutes of the December 15, 2014, meeting of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission be approved, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Morris; and the question being upon approving the minutes of the December 15, 2014, meeting of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS:	Commissioners Morris, Ring, Stafford, and Williford
ABSTAIN:	Commissioner Smith
NAYES:	None

The Chair declared the motion carried; and the minutes of the December 15, 2014, meeting of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission was approved.

Items submitted for the record:

1. December 15, 2014 minutes of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission

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Item 6, being:

RECOGNITION OF REAPPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS ARMSTRONG, MORRIS, and SMITH.

Reappointed Commissioners Julie Morris and Heidi Smith were recognized. Commissioner Joseph Armstrong had also been reappointed; however, he reportedly no longer lives in the Norman area. The City Clerk will be advised to remove Commissioner Armstrong from the Commission Roster and to accept applications for a new Commissioner.

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Item 7, being:

RECOGNITION OF NEWLY APPOINTED COMMISSIONER STACEY BEDGOOD (DISCUSSION OF CITY OF NORMAN ETHICS POLICY AND PLEDGE).

New Commissioner Stacey Bedgood was to be recognized as new to the Commission. City staff will contact Commissioner Bedgood following the meeting and place this item on the June 2015 Agenda.

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Item 8, being:

APPROVAL OF THE (AMENDED) SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS FOR THE 2015 CALENDAR YEAR.

The amended Schedule of Regular Meetings for the 2015 Calendar Year was reviewed. The date for the December meeting discussed. City staff to place item on September 2015 Agenda to discuss December 2015 meeting date.

Commissioner Morris moved that the (Amended) Schedule of Regular Meetings for the 2015 Calendar Year be approved, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Stafford; and the question being upon approving the 2015 amended Schedule of Regular Meetings of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Morris, Ring, Stafford, Smith, and Williford

NAYES: None

Items submitted for the record:

1. Amended Schedule of Regular Meetings for the 2015 Calendar Year

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Item 9, being:

#### REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS COORDINATING COMMISSION ORDINANCE

Commissioner Smith reported that she and Ms. Snider had met with the Mayor Rosenthal on February 24, 2015 to discuss the plan and purpose of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commissions. Commissioner Smith presented the Code of Ordinances for the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission identifying Duties and Powers of the Commission (SEE ATTACHED). At the Mayor's request, Ms. Snider was tasked with gathering the original City Ordinance and meeting minutes for the Commission since it was formed in 1983 and provide the Commission with an overview of the findings. Ms. Snider stated that she plans to present the overview at the June 2015 meeting. The Children's Rights Coordinating Commission would then be asked to approve one of three options at the September 2014 meeting: 1) retain the Commission as is with goals/purpose identified which could require funds and time by Commissioners, 2) merge the Commission with the Human Rights Commission a Commission also supported by the City Attorney's Office, or 3) repeal the Commission if determining that since 1983 state agencies are now in place and the Commission is no longer needed.

It was questioned that if the Commission was repealed, how and through what channel of authority would the public report a problem regarding children's rights and whether or not a report line is available.

Item 10, being:

#### PLANNING FOR 2015 CHILDREN'S GARDEN.

Commissioner Ring reported of plans for the upcoming 2015 Children's Garden. The event will be held Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at Andrews Park from 12 p.m. or 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Agencies that will be participating in this year's event have been identified and music secured. Commissioners Smith and Ring plan to meet following this meeting to discuss the event. Commissioner Ring has scheduled a planning meeting for Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Commissioners were encouraged to attend the planning meeting and participate in the event. Commissioner Ring requested the following assistance in preparation of this year's event:

- Youth Council be contacted and invited to participate in the event.
- Request an April Proclamation for Child Abuse Awareness Month.
- Post the event on the City of Norman's website.

City staff will provide follow-up to the above requests.

Item 11, being:  
MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION.

***Children's Rights Award for Outstanding Service to Children:*** Ms. Smith reported of the upcoming Annual Service Award. This item will be on the June 2015 Agenda.

***Handicap Accessibility in City Parks:*** In follow-up from the September 2014 meeting with regard to Norman city parks being handicap accessible for children, Ms. Snider reported that Norman city parks have transfer points; however, are not totally handicap accessible for wheelchairs. The Oklahoma City Zoo has a totally handicap accessible playground for children. The City of Norman is in the process of transitioning its parks from mulch to a synthetic turf. The Commission discussed contacting Norman Forward and identifying the need for a totally handicap accessible playground for Norman.

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Item 12 being:  
ADJOURNMENT.

Commissioner Morris moved that the March 9, 2015, meeting of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission be adjourned, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Stafford; and the question being upon adjourning the March 9, 2015, meeting of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Morris, Ring, Stafford, Smith, and Williford

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried; and the March 9, 2015, Children's Rights Coordinating Commission meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

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