

**NOTE: THE COMMUNITY EQUITY COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE HELD
IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM (link is below).**

Please note, individuals may attend in-person or virtually via Zoom. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to the start of each meeting.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Oct 12, 2023 05:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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Persons interested in making their views known on any matter on the agenda should send an email with their comments to the Assistant City Manager at amuskopf@claytonmo.gov. All comments received will be distributed to the entire Commission before the meeting.

**Community Equity Commission
October 12, 2023 at 5:30 PM
City Hall, 10 N. Bemiston Avenue
Clayton, MO 63105**

Agenda

1. Welcome and Roll Call
2. Approval of September 14, 2023 Minutes
3. Reflection: National Indigenous People's Month
4. Introduction of New Faith Based Community Ex Officio Member, Sarah Rugenstone
5. Comprehensive Plan Data Review
6. Recommendation to Make Downtown Clayton Signage Bilingual
7. Update on Survey to Business Community
8. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Law Enforcement
 - b. Housing
9. Old Business
 - a. Public Comments from September 14, 2023 Meeting
10. Public Comment
11. Comments from Members
12. Next Meeting: Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 5:30 pm
13. Adjourn

**The City of Clayton
Community Equity Commission
City Hall, 10 N. Bemiston Ave.
September 14, 2023**

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Chris Schmiz, Stuart Berkowitz, Lauren Rodriguez-Goldstein, Ted Wheeler, Karin Schute, and JoAnna Schooler (ex officio).

Additional: Alderwoman Becky Patel, Alderman Gary Feder, City Manager David Gipson, and Assistant City Manager Andrea Muskopf

Approval of August 10, 2023 Minutes

Ben Uchitelle moved to approve the minutes. Ted Wheeler seconded the motion. Minutes accepted and approved.

Introduction of New Commission Member

Reflection: National Hispanic Heritage Month

JoAnna Schooler led the Reflection.

Comprehensive Plan Workshop

Consultants led discussion on Comprehensive Plan and will return at the Commission's January meeting.

Update on Recommendation to Appoint Ex-Officio Faith-Based Representative

Review and Recommendation of Survey to Business Community

Zoom meeting to be scheduled with Chris Schmiz, Rob Whitney, Alderman Gary Feder, and Alderwoman Becky Patel.

Old Business

Lauren Rodriguez-Goldstein provided an update on research regarding downtown signage and possible addition of social worker.

Public Comment

No public comments.

Comments from Members

No comments from members.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

Adjourn

Stuart Berkowitz moved to adjourn the meeting. Lauren Rodriguez-Goldstein seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.



Clayton Community Equity Commission
October 12, 2023
Reflection

We begin this meeting by acknowledging that we are on the traditional homelands of Osage Nation, Missouriia, and Illini Confederacy.

We pay respect to elders both past and present, and we thank them for their hospitality and stewardship of this land.

October 11

National Indigenous
People's Day

While there had been many tribes of Indians settling in what would become the state of Missouri, by the 1800's, the major tribe of the area was the Osage. (Most of the Missouri tribe for which the state would be named, had joined other tribes by the late eighteenth century.)

The best way to describe the Osage Indians' way of life is that it was a prairie culture. A sophisticated society, the Osage lived in more or less permanent villages made of sturdy earthen and log lodges. They hunted buffalo and wild game like the Plains Indians, but they also raised crops to supplement their diets.

The Osage Nation

- American negotiators convinced the Osage to abandon their traditional lands and peacefully move to a reservation in southern Kansas in 1810. During the 1850s trouble was caused by settlers and other Indian tribes encroaching on the Osage land, which had been given to the Osage for “as long as the grass grows and the water flows.” Some settler even moved into Osage cabins while the Indians were buffalo hunting. The settlers pressured the government to open-up this rich land for white settlement.
- In 1866, government surveyors quickly divided the Osage property into lots, ready to sell to settlers for \$1.25 an acre. And once again the Osage were moved, this time to what is now Osage County, Oklahoma in 182.
- Such constant pressure from American settlers to push Native Americans off valuable lands and onto marginal reservations was all too common throughout the history of western settlement. Most tribes were devastated by these relocations, including some of the Southern Sioux tribes like the Kansa, whose population of 1,700 was reduced to only 194 following their disastrous relocation to a 250,000-acre reservation in Kansas. The Osage, though, proved unusually successful in adapting to the demands of living in a world dominated by Anglo-Americans, thanks in part to the fortunate presence of large reserves of oil and gas on their Oklahoma reservation. In concert with their effective management of grazing contracts to Anglos, the Osage amassed enormous wealth during the twentieth century from their oil and gas deposits, eventually becoming the wealthiest tribe in North America.
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During the 1890s the U.S. government pressured the Osage and other tribes in Indian Territory to give up common ownership and divide their reservations into individual allotments, allow the government to convert this land and the rest of the Oklahoma territory into the state of Oklahoma. The Osage resisted but finally gave up the fight in 1906.

Individual ownership of land clearly meant the break-up of the Osage way of living. But the Osage fared better financially than the other tribes since oil and natural gas had been found on their reservation in 1896 and they received annuities on petroleum produced from reservation wells.

Sometimes identified as the 'rich Oklahoma Indians, the Osage have been more successful than most tribes at maintain a tribal identity.



Geoffrey Standing Bear is the Principal Chief of the Osage Nation today. He is the great-grandson of Osage Principal Chief Fred Lookout. Chief Standing Bear and his wife Julie have four children and eight grandchildren.

Now, in his third term as Osage Nation Principal Chief, he continues the work of protecting and enhancing the Osage culture, language, and lands.

Before his election, Chief Standing Bear practiced law for 34 years. He concentrated on federal Indian law, receiving national recognition by Best Lawyers in America, Oklahoma Super Lawyers, and a listing with Chambers and Partners.

Sarah Rugenstone Bio

Sarah Rugenstone is a Local Licensed Pastor in the United Methodist Church. She currently serves at The Gathering, as the Site Pastor of the Clayton Site. Sarah graduated from Duke Divinity in May of 2022 with her M.Div. She went to Greenville University for her undergraduate education where she received her BA in Religion. Sarah is a Missouri native from Springfield, MO. She's recently married to her husband, Zack Rugenstone, who also has his MDiv. She is passionate about sitting with people in all walks of life, in their questions, in their joys and in their grief. She also loves all living creatures, and has three pets of her own. A dog and two cats!

Community Equity Commission
Recommendation to the Honorable Mayor and Board of Aldermen
For Clayton to Make Downtown Signs Bilingual

The CEC unanimously believes that changing Clayton directional/landmark signs to be offered in languages other than English would significantly change the message we send as a community and would help visitors perceive Clayton as a more welcoming and inclusive community. It is recommended that signs appear in English as well as Chinese (Mandarin or Cantonese) and Spanish.

1. Per Census data encapsulating 2017-2021, 7.6% (and increasing year over year) of St. Louis County residents are foreign-born and 9.5% of households speak a language other than English in the home.
2. Per additional data from the Census, the most commonly spoken languages outside of English in the Greater St. Louis region (purpose of their study includes the city, county, St. Charles and Farmington) are: Spanish, Chinese (including Mandarin and Cantonese), and Serbo-Croatian.
3. Per data from St. Louis City, the most commonly spoken languages outside of English are: Spanish, Farsi, Vietnamese, Bosnian, French, and Pashto + Dari.
4. The Clayton School District serves many families who speak languages other than English but only tracks those which receive Language Services. A little over 4% of the student body currently receives language services and these students encompass 26 languages. The most commonly spoken languages for students receiving language services through the school district are Chinese or Mandarin (25%) and Spanish (11%).
5. Bilingual signs are good for business: By showing non-English speaking customers you go out of your way to make them feel comfortable, you increase the likelihood they will recommend your business to their community. This follows for the city of Clayton. Ensuring visitors and residents can easily understand what resources are available, where to go, and how to get there is a way to welcome visitors to our city. The more welcoming we are, the more people patronize our businesses.
6. Clayton is home to resources and infrastructure heavily utilized county-wide. By being more inclusive to those visiting government buildings, passing through on public transit, and even visiting relatives in the County Jail, we become a more welcoming and usable city.
7. Per Matt Malick, Director of Public Services, the signs were most recently replaced in 2016-2017. Back then, each sign blade was \$464 and each hub that holds each blade was \$337. He suspects prices to be approximately 20% higher now due to inflation.
8. Per Matt Malick, the total project in 2016 to replace all signs cost around \$312,000. There were higher bids at that time and he suspects pricing to have increased since then. It is important to note that not all signs would necessarily need to be replaced (ie: Parking signs with just a P are probably okay to leave as is). Signs that should be updated would be: Direction Kiosks, Pedestrian and Vehicular Directional Signs, and possibly Identification Signs.