

**Human Rights Commission
Business Meeting
Minutes**

February 16, 2017

Commissioners Present: Thomas Hudson, Lorenzo Cervantes, Joseph Kloby, Darion Reese, Matthew Smith, Brogan Shell, Kelsey Fischer, Hermenia Jackson

Commissioners Absent: Anita Latch

City Staff Present: Andreta Armstrong, Malik Gbenro

HRC Chairperson Shell called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

Agenda Approval

Commissioner Reese called for a motion to approve the HRC Business Meeting Agenda of December 15, 2016. The motion was seconded and carried.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Cervantes made a motion to approve the December 15th minutes (there was not a quorum for the January meeting) – the motion was subsequently carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Creating Statutory Subcommittees (called Steering Committees)

Individual motions were made to create the following statutory subcommittees, with membership to be determined. The proposed subcommittees will be called:

Education/Outreach Steering Committee
Advocacy and Policy Steering Committee
Prevention and Intervention Steering Committee

Individual motions were made to create all three statutory subcommittees, and each motion carried by majority vote.

Reduce Size of Commission from 15 Members to 11 Members

A motion was made to recommend reducing the size of the Human Rights Committee from 15 commissioners to 11 commissioners. The recommendation would be made by OEHR staff to the City Council and/or the appropriate council committee. The motion carried by majority vote.

Statutory Definition of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in TMC 1.29

- A motion was made to take the staff's proposed revisions to the definition of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in TMC 1.29 to the City Council for consideration.
- Commissioner Cervantes noted that the current definitions of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in TMC 1.29 and in Washington State's anti-discrimination statute represent ideal language. Commissioner Cervantes recommended more up-to-date language as published by the Human Rights Campaign.
- Human Rights Manager Armstrong noted that the definition from the State of Washington strikes a balance between an open and inclusive definition and a definition that is enforceable given that the definition could be used to determine potential complainants in a human rights complaint.
- Commissioners Reese and Brogan expressed concerns with linking gender identity/expression so closely to sexual orientation as done in the State's language. Example: there are many people who are not heterosexual but have very normative gender expression – the language should be enforceable but may also benefit from separation.
- The motion to recommend changes to the aforementioned definitions was withdrawn by Chairperson Shell, and not voted on by the Commission.
- Chairperson Shell moved that the issue be considered by the newly created Policy and Advocacy Steering Committee. The motion passed.

Members of the Policy and Advocacy Steering Committee

Policy and Advocacy Steering Committee volunteers:

- Commission Chairperson Shell
- Commissioner Smith

Members of the Education and Outreach Steering Committee

Education/Outreach Steering Committee volunteers:

- Commissioner Kloby
- Commissioner Reese
- Commissioner Jackson
- Commissioner Cervantes

Members for the Prevention and Intervention Steering Committee

Prevention and Intervention Steering Committee volunteers:

- Commissioner Fischer
- Commissioner Hudson

Staff Report

Andreta Armstrong

- Are there any questions that current commissioners would like the Safety and Vitality Committee to ask HRC candidates?
 - Shell: What are their other commitments do they have/Do they have time for this commission?
 - Shell: Why are Civil Rights important?

- Kloby: What interests do you have in serving your community and how does it relate to the HRC?
- The following HRC cases were reported to the Commission with no questions posed by commissioners:
 - HRC #4773: Aidoghie v. Captive Plastics
 - HRC #4807: Hutcherson v. WildFin American Grill
 - HRC #4796: Stewart v. Life Manor Independent Living

Chair's Report

- None

Commissioner's Report

- None

Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

Adjournment

- Business Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Action Items:

- None