

**Human Rights Commission
Business Meeting
Minutes**

March 15, 2018

Commissioners Present: Lorenzo Cervantes, Brad Bates, Kim Tosch, Jennifer Vasilez, Natalie Collins, Allen Ratcliffe, Gina Fonseca, Lisa Snyder, Rebecca Stith, Jen Haggard

Commissioners Absent: Maria Villalpando Ramos, Andy Youn

City Staff Present: Marissa Vining, ChiQuata Elder, Ann Martin

Commissioner Stith called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

Agenda Approval

- Commissioner Stith called for a motion to approve the HRC Business Meeting Agenda of March 2018. The motion was made, seconded, and carried.

Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve February minutes. Commissioner Stith abstained due to her absence last month.

New HRC Business

- Interviews for new Commissioners on February 22, 2018 were rescheduled by CVSC to March 22, 2018 at 4:30pm.
- MCO will do a presentation regarding policies for written statements made by the Commission. Maria Lee or possibly Tanisha Jumper will present. This will include discussion of the July 2016 OEHR memo re: written statements and Arpaio statement.
- Commissioner Bates noted that the Council has asked for an update on the Commission, which will now be on April 26.
- Commissioner Stith discussed a recent email communication with Director Diane Powers on recommending possible revisions of the conciliation template. In the email, D. Powers said that OEHR and the City Attorney would review any recommendations. Commissioner Stith responded to D. Powers that she would be involved in any recommendations as a Commissioner and not as an attorney. Commissioner Stith stated that she appreciated D. Powers reaching out to ask for recommendations.
- Commissioner Bates noted that the Commission has three vacancies and four applicants. He asked if A. Armstrong had mentioned at the February meeting the possibility of eliminating one of the four applicants for residing outside of Tacoma. Commissioner Haggard had a similar recollection. Commissioner Stith noted that the interview schedule lists all four applicants and the Council makes the decision.

Chair's Report

- **Reminder: March 19, 2018 is orientation** for Boards/Commissions/Committees, 5:30-7:30pm
- **Race & Pedagogy Conference.** It is held every 4 years. Commissioner Stith reported being in touch with Tina McLeod of the Race & Pedagogy Institute about the conference. She noted that Tina was the housing investigator before M. Vining. Tina recalled several staff and a couple of Commission members going to the last conference. The Commission is hoping to have one or two Commissioners attend. The conference is \$350.00 per person and is held September 27- 29, 2018. There will be a discount for a larger group. A. Martin will check to see how many Commissioners will be able to attend with costs covered.
- **March 24 T-Town City Event Update:** Commissioners Tosch, Stith, and Haggard attended the event. Commissioner Stith noted that some Commissioners would like to have volunteered for this event. C. Elder explained why this particular event required staff volunteers and special training because it is intended to showcase city services. She noted that there will be opportunities for Commissioners to participate in several upcoming outreach events. Commissioner Cervantes asked if there is a calendar of events. C. Elder stated that there is not a calendar, but they do get event bulletins. Future events mentioned for which Commissioners might volunteer include: Ethnic Fest, Hilltop Fest, McKinley Hill Street Fair, and Tacoma Pride Festival. OEHR will inform HRC of future events.

Commissioner's Reports

- Commissioners Tosch and Haggard reported on a February 15, 2018, event, "Building Houses Not Walls," sponsored by the Adult Civics Happy Hour group. This group meets monthly to discuss different issues. Commissioner Haggard noted that the Director of City Planning did not address low-income housing problem. Group also discussed accessible dwelling units (ADUs). Next meeting will be on April 16, 2018, at Pacific Brewery, on racism and hate groups in PNW.
- Commissioner Haggard attended the February 22, 2018, meeting of "Pierce County Pride at Work," which is funded by labor unions and addresses LGBTQ and union issues. Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6-8pm. Additional information is on the group's FB page.
- Commissioner Tosch reported on the March 8, 2018, "Tacoma Roots Summit on Environmental Justice, Radical Inclusion of All People." The group holds quarterly meetings with schedules posted on its FB page. Commissioner Haggard also attended the event. She stated that Roots members Kenny Coble and Chrissy Cooley would like to address a study session in the near future.
- Commissioner Vasilez communicated with Seattle HR Commissioners Sarah Bishop and Tammy Morales. Seattle HRC meets 1st Thursday of every month. Discussed possible collaboration and attending each other's meetings. Commissioner Stith mentioned communicating last fall with a couple of Seattle Commissioners, and one Seattle Commissioner's suggestion of potential areas of collaboration regarding Indigenous people issues and repealing the death penalty.

Staff Report

- Will post the Business Meeting agenda 24 hours in advance so the public to know what will be discussed at the meeting.
- A. Martin reported that all 2018 agendas have been uploaded. Commissioner Stith thanked A. Martin for being proactive about the agenda postings following their discussion earlier in the week.
- A. Armstrong can give an update on HRC website translation at the next meeting.
- A. Martin provided samples of Commissioner badge and name tags.
- Motion to have badges for all Commissioners was made, seconded, and carried. Commissioners will email A. Martin to specify how they want their names to appear on badge.
- Chair Stith asked M. Vining what constitutes a closure to be reported and which closures need to be approved by Commission. M. Vining listed which types of closures require Commissioner action and which only need to be reported out. She noted that she sends a letter with a no-cause finding and the charging party can disagree within so many days.

Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

Adjournment

- Business Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.