

**Human Rights Commission**  
**Business Meeting**  
**Minutes**

**May 15, 2014**

**Chair Schuneman called the meeting to order at 7:24 p.m.**

**Commissioners Present:** Vazaskia Caldwell (out at 7:40) , Alice Currie, Richard McGrue III, Nicci Montgomery, Darion N. Reese (Out at 8:32), Fred Schuneman, Lucas Smiraldo, Larry Strege, Christopher Winters

**Commissioners Absent:** Preston Anderson, Olgly Diaz, April Sanders, John Wallace, Christina Zinkgraf

**Staff Present:** Tansy Hayward, Marya Gingrey, Vicki Walker

Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

**Agenda Approval**

Chair Schuneman called for a motion to approve the HRC Business Meeting Agenda of May 15, 2014, with one correction, adding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Champion Award Nominee to New Business. The motion was made to accept the amended agenda, seconded, and carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the HRC meeting minutes for April 17, 2014.

**New HRC Business**

- 2nd Quarter HRC Champion Award

Ballots were distributed and Commissioners voted. Tina Aure was the leading candidate. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the nomination of Tina Aure as 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter HRC Champion Award recipient.

**Chair's Report**

We met with the Commission on Disabilities regarding proposed revision to the number of employees jurisdictional requirement of Chapter 1.29.

**Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Montgomery mentioned a community forum at Oasis/Rainbow Center tomorrow at 4:00, that she believes is looking at the shift from partnership to marriage licenses.

Commissioner Smiraldo will perform at B Sharp coffee house at 7:00 p.m. next Thursday with his fiancée, and afterwards there will be open microphone.

### **Director's Report**

Director Hayward covered items of interest as follows:

- May 28, 5:30 to 7:30 at Fleet Services, Human Services Strategic Draft Plan Review/Update.
- May 28, will also be the City of Destiny Awards / Volunteer Appreciation night with the Rainiers.

The City of Council now has a consultant is on board now to do community facilitation around the city-wide Strategic Plan. The City is utilizing community events for feedback, such as at City of Destiny Awards, Pacific Avenue Business District Fair, Go Skate Tacoma, Freedom Fair, Out in the Park, Art on the Ave., Ethnic Fest, the Military Parade, South Tacoma and Proctor Farmers Markets, along with a couple of visioning workshops in July, and a Mind Mixer on-line forum.

Alongside that, a community survey is coming out May 16. We last did community surveys in 2006 and 2010, and it's time to update again. Surveys are done every five years to get a read on satisfaction with City Services. Citizens may also participate on line if they were not selected for the mail out of 3,000 random households.

Tentatively at the July 8, Council meeting, there will be a framework of what the Equity and Empowerment initiative likely will be, and a Resolution will eventually be adopted that will probably reflect some of the policy language that is in the framework.

Regarding the City of Destiny Awards there is a new format – making this more of a community event. This will be at the Rainiers game on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners and Board members are encouraged to attend and be recognized by the community. If you would like to attend, please let them know so tickets may be arranged.

Summer Jobs 253 has plenty of students, and still needs some employers. The closing date for applications was today. One hundred and five spots are needed at this point. Director Hayward will request the Media and Communications Office do a quick posting to get the word out and also asked if Commissioners could check with their contacts for interest in obtaining a summer intern.

### **Staff Report**

*Marya Gingrey*

- Marya Gingrey, referring to the Report of Case Closures, stated that during this period, we closed five cases as No Reasonable Cause Findings:

#### Housing Discrimination:

- HRC 4683 - Malone v. Tiki Apartments, et. al.

- HRC 4686 - Chambers v. Tacoma Housing Authority
- HRC 4690 - Sifrit v. Lakeside Landing Apartments/Bianco Properties, et. al.

**Employment Discrimination:**

- HRC 4673 - Hoptowit v. Elephant Car Wash
- HRC 4679 - Mitchell v. Hancock Fabrics

At next month's meeting we should see a rewarding settlement in a housing case that was a huge win for all parties involved.

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Fair Housing Conference is occurring on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The theme is "Leading from Every Level". The schedule is not totally finalized, but there are some great speakers, and we are almost at registration capacity. This year we expanded the registration by 100, thanks to a Fair Housing Grant. This conference includes registrants from 45 different cities in Western Washington, and 50% have not attended this conference in over five years. 11% have attended five times in the last five years. Partners include the King County Office of Civil Rights and Open Government, Washington State Human Rights Commission and volunteers from the Fair Housing Center of Washington, as well as staff support from Community and Economic Development and Neighborhood and Community Services.

Commissioners attending will be Chair Schuneman, Diaz, Reese, Sanders and Currie.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment**

Business Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

**Action Items:**

None.