

Human Rights Commission
Business Meeting
Minutes

June 19, 2014

Chair Schuneman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Alice Currie, Olgy Diaz, Richard McGrue III, Darion N. Reese, Fred Schuneman, Lucas Smiraldo, Larry Strege, John Wallace, Christopher Winters

Commissioners Absent: Preston Anderson, Vazaskia Caldwell, Nicci Montgomery, April Sanders, Christina Zinkgraf

Staff Present: Tansy Hayward, Marya Gingrey, Tina McLeod, 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 June 19, 2014. The motion was made, seconded, and carried.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the HRC meeting minutes for May 15, 2014.

New HRC Business

- a. Approval of Pre-Finding Settlement Agreement – HRC 4672 – Jordan v. Metropolitan Development Center, et. al.

Chair Schuneman entertained a motion to accept the Pre-Finding Settlement Agreement. The motion was made and seconded.

Discussion took place.

Tina McLeod explained the allegations of the complaint, the investigative process, and the opportunity throughout any investigation for conciliation in the form of a Pre-Finding Settlement Agreement. McLeod reminded Commissioners that a Respondents' participation in a Pre-Finding Settlement Agreement does not constitute an admission of any wrongdoing; and the agreement does not constitute a determination that any violation of Chapter 1.29 of the City of Tacoma Municipal Code, as amended, has or has not occurred. She reported that the Charging Party and Respondents entered into a Pre-Finding Settlement Agreement and have satisfactorily resolved the issues presented in the complaint.

After discussion, Chair Schuneman noted there was a motion on the floor to accept. Commissioners voted to accept, with Commissioner Wallace abstaining. The motion carried.

Chair's Report

Chair Schuneman reviewed upcoming events. Regarding Race: Power of Illusion Training on 6/28, they were unable to secure a location, so this will be cancelled. We will be looking for another partner and location in July.

July is the anniversary of the Civil Rights Act. We are trying to figure out a good way to celebrate, and could possibly work on something for Ethnic Fest which is on July 26th, and 27th.

Commissioner Winters suggested Commissioner Smiraldo and Montgomery, through their involvement in social media groups, invite artisans of song and spoken verse to perform works of racial recognition and social justice. Commissioner Smiraldo volunteered to write a piece for the occasion and speak with others that might be willing to participate. Commissioner Reese suggested handouts be made available for Commissioners to distribute at the event regarding the Human Rights Commission, and contact information.

Chair Schuneman mentioned the need to find stage times available, and also requested Commissioners be there as well.

Chair Schuneman reminded Commissioners of upcoming Study Session topics and public events.

Commissioners discussed fees for the Race and Pedagogy Conference, and Commissioner Smiraldo volunteered to put Commissioners in touch with someone that could work through the various fees with Commissioners. Director Hayward also thought we could bring back more information at the next scheduled meeting.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Smiraldo is hosting "Live at the Oracle" at B Sharp, June 26th, 7:15, as well as working on his audio anthology "Spirit of Place" spoken word project that will link to Google Maps. Commissioners were invited to participate.

Director's Report

Director Hayward distributed a postcard showing ways to get involved with the City's Strategic Planning process, and requested Commissioners spread the word and participate.

A Timeline for 2014 Charter Review was distributed and Director Hayward discussed the process and leanings thus far and the need for "for" and "against" writers.

There is a Budget update on the City of Tacoma Website for presentations dated June 10th, and 17th. Director Hayward reviewed the budget gap and different elements of the budget, along with upcoming community budget meetings being scheduled to discuss priorities.

Regarding Budget, and our new Equity and Empowerment Initiative, and related forms; there are some questions posed for budget enhancements or reductions, and the impacts on underrepresented communities (positive or negative).

Staff Report

Marya Gingrey noted the HUD fiscal year closure is coming up on June 30th, and we will have a number of cases for our July meeting.

Upcoming:

Out in the Park is on July 12th from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Ethnic Fest is coming up July 26th and 27th, with more information to come.

Next Tuesday, 6/24/14, the City Council will recognize our 2nd quarter HRC Champion, Tina Aure.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Business Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Action Items:

Staff will provide Commissioner Reese and others with literature to handout at Ethnic Fest with contact information.