

Human Rights Commission
Business Meeting
Minutes

July 17, 2014

Chair Schuneman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

Commissioners Absent: Preston Anderson, Nicci Montgomery

Staff Present: Diane Powers, 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 July 17, 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 June 19, 2014.

New HRC Business

- a. Approval of Pre-Finding Settlement Agreement – HRC 4694 – Manzo v. All StarZ Staffing.
Chair Schuneman entertained a motion to accept and approve the Pre-Finding Settlement Agreement. The motion was made, seconded, and carried.

- b. Approval of Leave of Absence Request – Commissioner Preston Anderson
Chair Schuneman entertained a motion to accept the six month leave of absence request submitted by Commissioner Preston Anderson.
The motion was made, seconded, and carried.

- c. Establishment of Committee Membership – Chapter 1.29 Jurisdictional Requirements.
The HRC agreed to a joint commission meeting with COD on Chapter 1.29 jurisdictional issuing requirements. Chair Schuneman called for volunteers to represent the HRC. Commissioners Zinkgraff, Reese, and Currie volunteered, with Chair Schuneman noting that he would also participate when possible. The group will set the meeting schedule to complete the task by the first of the year. (Commissioners Diaz and Smiraldo arrived at 5:35 and 5:36, respectively).

Commissioner Reese was nominated as HRC co-chair of this joint committee.

Chair's Report

Chair Schuneman expressed excitement for the evening's upcoming listening session.

Commissioner's Report

Regarding Barriers to Employment Committee, Commissioner Winters was looking at two potential issues:

1. Traffic Safety improvements on a federally funded project, and payroll issues with the project.
2. On a private project, a painting company fired three Latinos for talking about forming and joining a union.

(Commissioner Sanders arrived at 5:41).

Staff Report

- Marya Gingrey, referring to the Report of Case Closures, stated that during this period, we closed six housing cases as No Reasonable Cause Findings:
 - HRC 4682 – Creamer-Duncan v. Vintage at Tacoma/FPI Management, et. al.
 - HRC 4684 – Moore v. The Pennington Apartments/TARGA, et. al.
 - HRC 4688 – Estrada v. 3901 Yakima/QH Group, et. al.
 - HRC 4691 – Creso v. Winthrop Apartments/Allied Residential, et. al.
 - HRC 4692 – Powell v. Tacoma Property Investments, et. al.
 - HRC 4693 – Lacy v. Tacoma Property Investments, et. al.

There were also two Administrative closures:

- HRC 4706 – Powell v. McKinley Apartments
- HRC 4695 Hulscher v. The Copper Door

For Powell v. McKinley Apartments, this was a dual filed complaint and HUD will take as a transfer case as it was requested the City not investigate, resulting in an Administrative closure. For Hulscher v. The Copper Door (a public accommodation case), the respondent was very willing to make changes required. The building is now in compliance, and the complainant is accepting of an administrative closure.

Marya Gingrey gave a brief report of the logistics for HRC participation in Ethnic Fest on July 26th, noting that we are honoring the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act, and the Commission will be there at the opening ceremony at 11:45 on the main stage. Metro Parks will kick it off, and then Chair Schuneman and Chair Nyland, of the Commission on Disabilities, will deliver brief comments, which will then be followed by our own HRC member and Poet Laureate, Lucas Smiraldo, who has written a spoken word piece in commemoration of the Civil Rights Act.

Commissioner Caldwell spoke of some current related topics, such as the State HRC celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, with the Governor speaking on Friday the 25th. Commissioner Caldwell also made note of a new video called "In Your Skin" that addresses racism and strategies to deal with the impacts.

Marya Gingrey briefed Commissioners on other upcoming HRC activities and commissioners discussed various outreach opportunities.
(Commissioner Wallace arrived at 5:54 p.m.)

Director's Report

Diane Powers, Manager of Human Services Division, in the Neighborhood and Community Services Department, reported that Director Hayward was at a community budget session, and spoke on her behalf about community input on budget, our on-line forum and website, along with opportunities for community members and staff to provide budget input as part of the 2015-16 budget development process.

Ms. Powers also reported about the City working on its 10-year Strategic Plan and envisioning what we want Tacoma to look like in 2025. We are seeking community perspective at an event on July 30th, at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center.

The Human Services Division submitted its 2015-2019 Strategic Plan, added an equity and empowerment lense, and has received some valuable input from communities we have never reached before. Final presentation is next Tuesday before Council. There was also an Innovation and Capacity Building Fund added to ensure smaller programs are successful, either through hiring a grant writer, or getting training, or obtaining technical assistance to become more successful in competing for our funding for their valuable services.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Business Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Action Items: