

Human Rights Commission

Study Session

12/17/2020

Commissioners Present: Melvin Nobles, Jr, Allen Ratcliffe, Lisa Snyder, Ronita Boulton, Taniesha Lyons, Sarah Rumbaugh, Keeshreeyaji Oswal, Amanda Westbrooke, Verda Washington, Andre Jimenez, Michealea Lemons,

Call to Order

Chair Lemons would like to edit the business meeting agenda

*Overview of Current of Commission's Sub-Committees

Chair Lemons would like to the Committee to break out in break out groups.

Chair Lemons goes over the roster for the respective sub-committees

*Policy and Advocacy: Keeshreeyaji, Andre Jimenez, Julie Tran

*Outreach and Education: Sarah, Verda, Norman, Ronita

*Racial Justice and Equity: Michealea, JR, Amanda, Taniesha

*Housing Equity Task Force: Michealea, Allen, Lisa, Julie

Chair Lemons received two inquires about joining the Housing Equity Task Force from Commissioners Brickhouse and Washington

Commissioner Snyder notes Outreach and Education will not be meeting.

*Commissioners Oswal and Jimenez, co-chairs of the policy and advocacy, have met twice and discussed the restart of the committee. They are researching and developing future projects. Policy and Advocacy meet on January 9th 2021.

Commissioner Rumbaugh reminds the HRC to do the "Homes in Tacoma" survey.

Black Lives Matter Mural

Chair Lemons thanks the Racial Justice and Equity committee for their help in distributing information about the BLM mural contest.

Chair Lemons notes that there will be delays because of requirements from the city's Media and Communications office.

Chair Lemons met with the Youth Commission and expressed excited about the contest. The Commission provided help with outreach and offered their services. This also could be a joint venture with the Arts Commission

Chair Lemon announces that the BLM mural was postponed because of the winter season

Andreta Armstrong notes that the delay was more about public safety concerns and providing a quality product.

Commissioner Updates

Chair Lemons announces that Commissioner Julie Tran has resigned, she has a new work opportunity.

Commissioner Rumbaugh will now be the co-chair of the Housing Equity Task Force. Commissioner Rumbaugh speaks making sure the “Home in Tacoma” survey has wide participation.

Commissioner Oswal announces that the Policy and Advocacy Committee will meet primarily on the weekends.

Chair Lemons inquires if the Commissioners can continue with their terms.

Andreta Armstrong notes that the Commissioners’ terms will expire on the prescribed time.

Chair Lemons wants the termed out Commissioners to re-apply for another term or participate as a community member.

Commissioner Snyder points out the need for continuity with the Commissioner and their terms.

Study Session ends at 6:17

Human Rights Commission

Business Meeting

December 17, 2020

Commissioners Present: Melvin Nobles, Jr, Allen Ratcliffe, Lisa Snyder, Ronita Boullt, Taniesha Lyons, Sarah Rumbaugh, Keeshreeyaji Oswal, Amanda Westbrooke, Verda Washington, Andre Jimenez, Michealea Lemons, C. Ivan Johnson,

Call to Order

The Chair calls the meeting to order

Roll Call

The Chair motions to approve the November meeting minutes

Commissioner Westbrooke seconds the motion.

The November meeting minutes are approved with minor changes

Public Comment

Zoe Grieder (they, them), Tacoma Mutual Aid Collective

The presenter is a disability activist and has been working to get Portable toilets to the larger homeless encampments in the city. The presenter began speaking about the violence that has taken place against homeless in the last couple of months.

The Chair thanks the presenter for presenting and Commissioner Ratcliffe inquires if the collective has had any contact with the Pierce County Homeless Coalition.

The presenter has had limited contact with the Pierce County Homeless Coalition and Commissioner Ratcliffe invites the presenter to a meeting with the Pierce County Homeless Coalition.

Commissioner Westbrooke thanks the presenter and wants to connect them with a group that is having a homeless summit on December 21, 2020.

Commissioner Boullt inquires whether temporary housing at the Eastside Community Center will continue beyond the end of the year.

The Chair explains how the HRC processes these inquiries and that a discussion will be started

Black Lives Matter Commission

The Chair notes that there has been a postponement

Staff Reports

Staff Reports the closing of an employment civil rights case

Staff describes the process that the Human Rights unit uses when investigating civil rights cases

Commissioner Nobles inquires about what further recourse civil rights complainants have after a “No Reasonable Cause” investigation.

Staff explains that a complainant may seek a reconsideration with additional evidence

Commissioner Oswal inquires about the status of case backlogs at the Washington state Human Rights Commission.

Staff indicates that the Washington state Human Rights Commission still has a backlog.

The Chair begins a discussion on nominations for Second Vice Chair

Commissioner Nobles nominates Commissioner Jimenez for Second Vice Chair

Commissioner Jimenez accepts the nomination

Commissioner Ratcliffe motions that the ballot cast for a unanimous ballot in favor of Commissioner Jimenez

The motion is seconded and the motion passes

The Chair announces that there will be a retreat in April at a date to be announced

Commissioner Oswal notes that the HRC website should be updated. Staff will make sure that happens.

Commissioner Nobles shares that at the end of the meetings are typically used to share community resources

Commissioner Ratcliffe moves to adjourn and the motion is seconded