

Human Rights Commission

Study Session 1/21/2021

Commissioners Present: Michealea Lemons, Sarah Rum Baugh, Allen Ratcliffe, Andre Jimenez, C. Ivan Johnson, Verda Washington, Keshreeyaji Oswal,

Call to Order

The Commissioners played a rapport building game

Chair Lemons explains an on-going absence and mentions that the Commission needs to be giving updates to the CVS Committee

Chair Lemons also addresses the maintenance of the Human Rights Commission website

Andreta Armstrong informs the Commission that the website has not been updated

Chair Lemons speaks about how the Commission's minutes are maintained

Overview of Work Plans

Chair Lemons asks about relevant Commissioner experience with work plans

Commissioners Rum Baugh and Oswal both experience with work plans

The Commission goes through commission work plans from the cities of Salem, Berkeley, Austin, Edina,

Commissioner Rum Baugh notes that the Commission should ascertain their audience for the effectiveness of the work plan

Commissioner Jimenez asks for a clarification on the Chair's goal for the work plan

Chair Lemons replies that the goal is to have a product on the website and notes the work plan should be accomplished by April

Robert's Rules of Order

The Commission watches a video on Robert's Rules of Order

Human Rights Commission

Business Meeting

1/21/21

Commissioners Present: JR Nobles, C. Ivan Johnson, Allen Ratcliffe, Bonita Boullt, Sarah Rum Baugh, Keshreeyaji Oswal, Amanda Westbrooke, Verda Washington, Andre Jimenez

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Nobles moves for the approval of the January Business Meeting agenda

Commissioner Oswal seconds and January Business Meeting agenda is approved

Vice Chair Nobles asks for a motion to approve the December Business/Study Session minutes

Commissioner Johnson motions to approve the minutes

The motion is seconded and the December Business/Study Session minutes are approved

Public Comment

Vice Chair Nobles recognizes Lisa Woods, Interim Chief Equity Officer of the OEHR

Vice Chair Nobles recognizes Noelle, who wants to get more involved with the Tacoma community.

The Vice Chair notes that the Commissioners will meet with Ms. Woods soon.

Staff Reports

Andreta Armstrong comments that the scope of the search for the Chief Equity Officer is national

Staff reports out employment discrimination case

Vice Chair Nobles asks about efforts to aid Tacoma Mutual Aid Collective in placing handwashing stations and portable bathrooms at particular homeless encampments

Commissioner Jimenez notes that TMAC were just looking for two bathroom stations and two handwashing stations

Commissioner Johnson endorses the idea and asks where the stations would be located. He suggests People's Park.

Commissioner Jimenez notes that there is a bathroom and handwashing station already there

Commissioner Johnson notes that he thought that the previous bathrooms had been excavated

Commissioner Rum Baugh asks how to balance human needs of the situation against other uses for the park. She also notes that the previous bathroom facilities were vandalized.

Commissioner Johnson noted that he did not think of the vandalism issue.

Andreta Armstrong notes that it is helpful to ask advocacy groups about their specific request.

Commissioner Oswal notes that collaboration with other groups would be helpful.

Commissioner Ratcliffe supports the idea of the facilities, but does not of the procedures to take action

Andreta Armstrong explains the general scope of the Human Rights Commission

Commissioner Washington notes that the project could be costly

Andreta Armstrong notes that the Commission could write a letter of support for the Tacoma Mutual Aid Collective in their endeavor

Commissioner Ratcliffe moves for a letter of support for the Tacoma Mutual Aid

Commissioner Rum Baugh seconds the motion

Vice Chair Nobles brings the motion for a vote and the motion passes

The Vice Chair charges one of the committees to draft the letter.

Commissioner Jimenez thinks this task should go to the Policy and Advocacy committee.

Vice Chair asks about the timetable for draft and Commissioner Jimenez suggests they could have it done by next meeting

Committee Updates

Policy and Advocacy- Commissioner Jimenez reports that they are exploring the direction for the committee and met with Andreta Armstrong about past assignments. The Committee's next meeting is February 6, 2021.

Outreach and Education- Commission Rum Baugh updates the Commission on the Housing Equity Task Force with the Planning Commission. They have been working on the Home in Tacoma program, which is a plan of inclusive zoning. The Planning Commission will be reviewing the plans of the committee.

Racial Justice and Equity- The Vice Chair notes they have been working on the BLM mural project and asks about the budget for the project.

Andreta Armstrong notes that it has been suggestion that the Commission partner with the Arts Commission for the budget.

The Vice Chair then speaks about the scope of the BLM mural project.

Commissioner Ratcliffe thanks the Commission for their work.

Adjournment

