

Human Rights Commission

Study Session Minutes

3/18/2021

Commissioners Present: JR Nobles, Ronita Boullt, Norman Brickhouse, Sarah Rumbaugh, Keshreeyaji Oswal, Amanda Westbrooke, Verda Washington, Andre Jimenez, Michealea Lemons,

Call to Order

Acknowledge Women's History Month- The Commissioners acknowledged the women who have influenced them.

Commissioner Nobles wanted acknowledge Commissioner Westbrooke

Retreat Discussion- Chair Nobles discusses the particulars about the retreat. A discussion begins about possible food places for the retreat.

The HRC DOES NOT want Panera Bread as an option

Samantha Kaaumo discusses ways to provide food for the Retreat

Chair Lemons begins a discussion about the hopes for the Retreat and their intentions

Chair Lemons wants to set overarching committee goals.

Commissioner Brickhouse inquires about the progress of the Heal the Heart initiative.

Commissioner Oswal wants to see what the scope of "human rights" for the commission and inquires whether outside parties can join the retreat.

Chair Lemons notes that it is unclear whether outside parties can come to the retreat. She notes that they are more than welcome to come the committee meetings.

Commissioner Westbrooke inquires about statements about violence against Asians and Manny Ellis. She wants to know how the HRC makes statements

Chair Lemons notes that there are some structural barriers that prevents the HRC from being timely. There have been discussions about releasing quarterly statements.

Commissioner Oswal would like promote social media. Andreta Armstrong notes that the City has certain procedures for making statements.

Commissioner Brickhouse seeks training on making statements on behalf of the HRC. Andreta Armstrong notes that training needs to happen before outreach and engagement happens.

Adjournment

Human Rights Commission

Business Meeting

3/18/2021

Commissioners Present: JR Nobles, Ronita Boullt, Norman Brickhouse, Sarah Rumbaugh, Keshreeyaji Oswal, Amanda Westbrooke, Verda Washington, Andre Jimenez, Michealea Lemons

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Business Meeting Agenda- Commissioner Oswal motions to approve. The motion is seconded and approved.

Approval of February Study Session and Business Meeting Minutes-Commissioner Oswal motions to approve. Commissioner Brickhouse seconds and the motion is approved.

Impact Fees Presentation- Eric Alozie of NEW Consulting educates the HRC about impact fees and their possible use in the community.

Commissioner Brickhouse asks how the fees could support affordable housing.

Eric Alozie says the impact fees would go into a large pool and the City would decide how the money would be allocated.

Commissioner Oswal asks if any part of the impact fees will go to the Tacoma Police Department.

Eric Alozie says that they will not.

Commissioner Westbrooke asks if the facilities list is public and Eric Alozie replies that it is.

Commissioner Westbrooke also asks if he has reached out to the Black Collective or the Urban League.

Chair Lemons asks how impact fees are collected. Eric Alozie says that its similar to a permit fee, at the beginning of a project.

Chair Lemons asks how the implementation of the impact fees makes Tacoma more attractive to developers.

Eric Alozie says that the current programs that incentive affordable housing will continue to be in place. Alozie says that infrastructure is important to make Tacoma attractive.

Commissioner Rumbaugh asks if Eric Alozie is working with Pierce County and the Growth Management Act. Eric Alozie says that Pierce County is on the list of people they will work with.

Staff Reports-

Update on HRC Interviews- Andreta Armstrong says that most of the seats were filled. Two people could not make the interviews because of prior engagements. An individual was added to the interview list and Chair Ushka will allow this person to be interviewed on March 27, 2021. There are three candidates for the seat.

Commissioner Rumbaugh has a question about the fairness of the interview process and wants to know how the process works.

Andreta Armstrong says that the CVS determines who is interviewed. Armstrong notes that she gives a suggestion based on the district, their experience and other possible uses for the commission. Armstrong sent over 17 people to be interviewed and 8 interviews were had.

Commissioner Oswal notes that he also recommended an individual and has concerns that the people interviewed had connections with current City Council official. He wants to have a conversation about the process.

Chair Lemons expressed concerned about the process and wants to make sure all voices have a chance to be part of the Commission.

Commissioner Boult wants to know how many people were to be interviewed. Andreta Armstrong notes that there was 8 interviews scheduled. Two did not show up and thirty three people applied for seven slots.

Update on BLM Mural- Chair Lemons the mural might be a partnership with the Tacoma Arts Museum and the Tacoma Arts Commission. They are waiting for an invite to see what further develops.

New Business

Update on Chief Equity Officer Hiring Process- Chair Lemons has read applications for the Chief Equity Officer. There were 48 applications and OEHR is restarting the process and re-evaluating the applications. Anybody who initially applied can re-apply when the position is posted.

Update on Statement of Support for TMAC- Commissioner Jimenez says that the statement was sent to Deputy Mayor Blocker and they are awaiting comment.

Update on Heal the Heart Committee- Commissioner Washington had to step away and she will have an update at the retreat.

Announcements

Share Upcoming Events- Women Owned Business Panel is on March 24th

Commissioner Rumbaugh speaks about Rebuilding Hope, a sexual assault center in Pierce County. They have a fundraiser on April 20th.

Chair Lemons notes that the Tacoma Urban League is still looking for an Executive Director.

Adjournment