

**Human Rights Commission
Study Session
Notes**

April 18, 2019

Commissioners Present: Michealea Lemons, Melvin Nobles, Jr., Kim Tosch, Natalie Collins, Allen Ratcliffe, Lisa Snyder, Sarah Lee, Ronita Boullt, Taniesha Lyons, Sarah Nunez, Sarah Rumbaugh, Julie Tran

Commissioners Absent: Jennifer Vasilez, Rosita Castellano, Carol Mitchell

City Staff Present: Andreta Armstrong, Ann Martin

Guest: Hally Bert, Downtown on the Go Coordinator

Commissioner Lemons called the Study Session to order at 5:35 p.m.

Downtown On the Go!

- Hally Bert- Program Coordinator with Downtown on the Go gave information on Transportation Advocacy Day at Court House Square, May 6, 2019 from 9 am to 3 pm. This will connect advocates and community members from across Pierce County who are working on issues of livability, affordability, walking, biking, transit, and more.

Retreat Overview and Discussion

- Chair Lemons gave retreat overview and further discussion commenced regarding committees and task forces.
- Commissioner Tosh recommended four strong committees to reduce strain on commissioners. Also stated committees can change and we could create new ones.
- Commissioner Ratcliffe said HRC Committee is supposed to investigate things – would like to HRC be proactive and develop a process where we meet with groups around the city and listen to their concerns. Possibly through Education and Outreach committee.
- Andreta Armstrong stated that OEHR staff completes investigations and reports. Outreach and education is done by HRC so that people will come to OEHR office with issues.
- Commissioner Lee said that we should check in with organizations in community and find out what's going on. Also the time it takes for these committees can be problematic. We should be more inclusive of what each committee covers
- Commissioner Boullt mentioned outreach to business and employees
- Chair Lemons talked about accountability for commissioners.
- Commissioner Lee asked about more history on the committees.

Motioned made and seconded to establish four committees.

Committees are:

- Policy & Advocacy (Amend 1.29 – merged with P&A)
- Commission Operations and Quality Assurance (COQA)
- Education & Outreach
- Racial Justice & Equity

Members

COQA – Sarah Lee

Policy & Advocacy – Kim Tosch, Jennifer Vasilez, Sarah Nunez, Julie Tran

Education and Outreach – Lisa Snyder, Al Ratcliffe, Sarah Rumbaugh, Ronita Boulton

Racial Justice & Equity Committee – Taniesha Lyons, JR Nobles, Michealea Lemons, Natalie Collins

Study Session adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

**Human Rights Commission
Business Meeting Minutes**

April 18, 2019

Commissioners Present: Michealea Lemons, Melvin Nobles, Jr., Kim Tosch, Natalie Collins, Allen Ratcliffe, Lisa Snyder, Sarah Lee, Ronita Boullt, Taniesha Lyons, Sarah Nunez, Sarah Rumbaugh, Julie Tran

Commissioners Absent: Jennifer Vasilez, Rosita Castellano, Carol Mitchell

City Staff Present: Andreta Armstrong, Ann Martin

Commissioner Lemons called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

Agenda Approval

Commissioner Lee moved to approve the agenda of the business meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Ratcliffe moved to approve minutes from the March business meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

Public Comment

There was no public in attendance for comment.

Chairs Report

- Commissioner Lemons gave update on event “The Hate You Give” at The Grand Cinema on May 22nd from 6:15 pm to 8:30 pm.
- Commissioner Lemons gave a summary on first Racial Justice Task Force Community Conversation. Nine people attended. There will be two more conversations; next one is on 4/27 at Swasey Library and hopes that CM Beale will attend. Event is on City of Tacoma Facebook page.
- Commissioner Lemons attended Women of the House event on April 15th at Seattle University.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Tosch set up speaker for May
 - Pierce County Against Human Trafficking
- Commissioner Rumbaugh would like Judge Rumbaugh to come and speak about new sentencing guidelines in Superior Court.
- Commissioner Boullt shared event on May 11th at 3:30 pm at The Grand Cinema “No More Chains”.

- Commissioner Ratcliffe would like to have Dr. Christopher Beasley as a guest speaker. Also mentioned telling homeless about source of income and the bathroom ordinance recently passed.
- Commissioner Tosch asked for update on Gender Neutral Bathroom Signage Ordinance that goes into effect June 1st. Chair Lemons said she would have more information at the May meeting.
- Commissioner Lyons would like us to cover reentry in housing after incarceration in committee work.
- Commissioner Lee informed the commission about the YWCA lunch on 4/24 at the Hotel Murano and the BlackArt Fest at the Seattle in June.

New Business

- Nominations for 2nd Vice Chair – Julie Tran / Sarah Lee. Voting will be done at May meeting.
- LNG Cover memo and recommendation letter were reviewed. Commissioner Ratcliffe moved to approve letter. The motion was seconded and carried. Letter to be sent to Mayor and City Council and City Attorney Steve Victor.

Staff Reports

None

Meeting is adjourned at 7:38 pm