



Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Date: January 19, 2023

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Study Session: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Business Meeting: 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Location: Hybrid Tacoma Municipal Building

747 Market Street

Conference Room #243

Tacoma, WA 98402

Zoom (Click the following link to join the meeting): <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81908915518>

Meeting ID: 819 0891 5518

STUDY SESSION 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Study session started at 5:45 by Vice Chair commissioner Westbrook

February conversation with Chief Moore. Logistic Updates:

- Staff is looking into different locales that would host a hybrid meeting.
- Date of meeting was initially set
- Location needs to be accessible and have hybrid options.
- Joint meeting of HRC, TACOD, CIRA (CPAC was invited).
- Compiled questions for the joint meeting are being compiled
- Will there be an opportunity to have a Q&A, or open dialog?

As a Commission, we are experiencing a lot of transition. Can we plan some team building exercises to unify the group?

- Can we develop an outreach calendar where we can engage more with the community and generate awareness of HRC?
- Teambuilding could be a way to boost attendance.

We have a commissioner that cannot attend on Thursday. Is the Commission open to changing the date of the meeting?

- We would need to check the CBC calendar, conference room availability, HRC Charter + City Charter
- In a quick poll: Monday and Tuesday nights are not ideal.

Commissioners

Andre Jimenez
Amanda Westbooke
Artyom Yakimovich
C. Ivan Johnson
Courtney Acoff
Janice Langbehn
Keshreeyaji Oswal

Verda Washington
Laurie Lynch
Mason Culbertson
Melvin JR Nobles
Norman Brickhouse
Robbie Johnston
Verda Washington

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order – Vice Chair Westbrooke called meeting to 6:38PM

II. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences Chair Jimenez (Excused)
 Amanda Westbrooke (Vice-Chair) Courtney Acoff (Absent)
 Mason Culbertson (Excused) Janice Langbehn
 Artyom Yakimovich Keshreeyaji Oswal
 C. Ivan Johnson (Excused) Laurie Lynch
 Melvin JR Nobles Ronita Boult
 Norman Brickhouse Verda Washington
 Robbi Johnston

Eight (8) Commissioners; a quorum is present.

Guests: OEHR Staff Rita Moore and ChiQuata, and Director Lisa Woods

III. Approval of Business Meeting Agenda – Chair Andre Jimenez
Commissioner Nobles made a motion to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Brickhouse seconded the motion.
The Ayes have it and the January

IV. Statement of Purpose – Vice Chair Westbrooke

V. Land Acknowledgment – Vice Chair Culbertson

VI. Consent Agenda – Vice Chair Westbrooke

- a. Approval of October 2022 Meeting Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)
Commissioner Brickhouse made a motion to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Langbehn seconded the motion.
The Ayes have it and the January 19 Meeting Agenda was approved.
- b. Approval of November 2022 Special Meeting Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)
Commissioner Brickhouse made a motion to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Oswal seconded the motion.
The Ayes have it and the November 2022 Special Meeting Minutes were approved.

VII. Public Comment (2 minutes per speaker)

No members of the public wished to make public comment.

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Public Comment was closed

VIII. Commission Affairs

a) Committee Updates and Overview of work. Please include the next meeting date and time.

Housing Equity Committee

- Committee has not met in over a quarter.
- Committee will resume meeting in the new year.

Outreach and Education - Commissioner Brickhouse

- Did not have a meeting in November and December.
- Commissioners have opportunities to table at events with Staff Liaison Shattuck.
- Working on a unified message on how commissioners represent themselves in the community in outreach opportunities.
- Do you have a calendar of events that HRC has been present at in the past?
- Committee will need a new chair & new leadership in March 2023.
- Would like Committee to consider: How can we target our efforts to bring awareness of the HRC?

Director Woods: role of OEHR is to support the commission in its outreach efforts.

Opportunities for the HRC to learn more about the differences between Human Rights and Civil Rights. If there is an interest in commissioners in receiving the [Human Rights Certificate Training](#), we can make sure that this is incorporated in the HRC 2023 workplan.

Policy and Advocacy Committee – Commissioner Oswal

- Have not been able to be meet in the last quarter.
- In 2023 as we are onboarding new members, we would like to increase membership in the committee.
- Would be impactful for the P&A committee to join in outreach efforts.

Racial Justice and Equity Committee - Commissioner Nobles

- Committee has not met recently.
- In the New Year committee will revisit the goals and workplan

VIII. Commission Affairs (continued)

Commissioners

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2023 Commissioner Recruitment

Can commissioners serve on committees if their terms have expired? (OEHR Staff will check)
Interviews for new commissioners will happen in CVS committee.
Application is closes today; we can accept applications throughout the year to fill vacancies.

Review of Current Roster and Dates of Term End (February 2023)

Commissioner Acoff submitted resignation
Commissioners Brickhouse, Jimenez, Johnson, Washington's terms expire on February 28, 2023
Commissioner Washington intends to reapply

b) Nominations and Election for Chair and First and Second Vice-Chair (2023)

There is a difference in the bylaws and the TMC if the HRC should have two co-chairs.

Nomination for first Vice Chair (#1):

Commissioner Culbertson has been nominated.

Motion made Commissioner Brickhouse

Motion seconded by Commissioner Johnston.

The ayes have it and Commissioner Culbertson has been elected as the First Vice Chair.

Nomination for second Vice Chair (#2):

Brickhouse nominated and made motion to nomination Commissioner Johnston.

The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Langbehn.

The ayes have it and Commissioner Johnston has been elected as the Second Vice Chair.

Nomination of Chair:

Commissioner Brickhouse nominated motion to elect Commissioner Westbrooke as Chair.

Commissioner Westbrooke provided testimony on her interest and committee to serve as HRC Chair.

Commissioner Johnston made motion to elect Westbrook.

Commissioner Langbehn seconded the motion.

The ayes have it and Commissioner Westbrooke was elected the Chair of the Human Rights Commission.

c) Retreat

Commissioner Langbehn made motion to table retreat discussion to the next meeting; Chair Westbrooke seconded.

The ayes have and the motion passes.

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IX. City Staff Updates – Director Woods and Liaison Shattuck

a. Case Closures

- i. Pre-Finding Settlement (Fair Housing Center of Washington and Sean Dimsey and Urban Heights, LLC and Pilot Ventures, LLC – HRC # 4915, HUD # 10-22-9541-8)

Agreement was reached in a pre-finding settlement, and compensation will be given to complainant. Part of settlement is that

Vote to approve pre-finding settlement:

Langbehn made motion to approve the pre-finding settlement.

Oswal seconded the motion.

Ayes have and the settlement is approved.

b. Recruitment for Open Staff Positions

Would like engagement of HRC to help develop questions we can ask in the upcoming HR Manager interview.

Possibility of having HRC members on the

c. Commissioner Job Description

X. Announcements

Staff Liaison Nancy shared calendar of upcoming Fair housing outreach events. And will share with commissioners.

XI. Items to Consider for Next Meeting:

Study Session: discuss our understanding of Human Rights

Retreat: if folks have ideas on when/where/what

Develop Welcoming Packet for new HRC members.

Circulate questions for the Chief of Police RE joint CBC meeting

XII. Adjourn

Commissioner Langbehn made motion to adjourn meeting at 7:46 PM; Commissioner Brickhouse second the motion. The ayes have it, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.

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