



Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Study Session

Date: Monday, August 14, 2023

Time: 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Study Session

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

- a. Presentation from the Tacoma Urban League about programming and community needs
 - i. Commissioner discussed having relationship builders (Commissioners Norris and Washington volunteered) with local organizations
- b. Logistics for HRC Retreat on Saturday, August 19th 10 AM – 2 PM
 - i. Discussed logistics (when, where, food)

Commissioners

Amanda Westbooke
C. Ivan Johnson
Janice Langbehn
Keshreyaji Oswal
Bri Crofton
Lillian Norris

Verda Washington
Laurie Lynch
Mason Culbertson
Melvin JR Nobles
Robbi Johnston
Ronita Boullt



Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Business Meeting

Date: Monday, August 14, 2023

Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Business Meeting

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

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

- I. Call Meeting to Order – Vice Chair Robbi Johnston**
 - a. Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM**

II. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences

Commissioners

Amanda Westrbooke
C. Ivan Johnson
Janice Langbehn
Keshreeyaji Oswal
Bri Crofton
Lillian Norris

Verda Washington
Laurie Lynch
Mason Culbertson
Melvin JR Nobles
Robbi Johnston
Ronita Boullt

- ~~Amanda Westbrooke, Chair (she/her)~~ excused
- ~~Mason Culbertson, Vice Chair (they/them)~~
- Robbi Johnston, Vice Chair (she/her)
- Keshreeyaji Oswal (he/him)
- Janice Langbehn (she/her)
- Verda Washington (she/her)
- ~~Melvin JR Nobles (he/him)~~
- Bri Crofton (they/them)
- C. Ivan Johnson (he/him)
- ~~Ronita Boullt (she/her)~~
- Lillian Norris (she/her)
- Laurie Lynch (she/her)

- Moment of silence in respect to losses in Hawaii

III. Approval of August 2023 Business Meeting Agenda – Vice Chair Johnston

- a. Commissioner Langbehn made a motion to approve the agenda.
- b. Commissioner Lynch seconded the motion.
- c. The Ayes have it and the Business Agenda is approved.

IV. Statement of Purpose – Vice Chair Johnston

We convene this meeting to study and investigate problems of prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination and to encourage and coordinate the implementation of programs consistent with the needs and rights of all residents of the City of Tacoma.

V. Land Acknowledgment – Commissioner Langbehn

The Commission acknowledges that the meeting is being conducted on Indigenous lands of the Puyallup People, who cared for their ancestral lands before the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854 removed native peoples to clear way for colonial settlement. It is important to this Commission as settlers here, aspiring to care for all residents in this place and to call it home, that we acknowledge and send gratitude to the Puyallup Tribe of Indians who continue to be leaders for justice in our community today.

VI. Consent Agenda – Vice Chair Johnston

- a. Approval of July 2023 Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)
 - b. Commissioner Langbehn made a motion to approve the agenda.
 - c. Commissioner Crofton seconded the motion.
 - d. The Ayes have it and the July 2023 minutes is approved.

Commissioners

Amanda Westbrooke
 C. Ivan Johnson
 Janice Langbehn
 Keshreeyaji Oswal
 Bri Crofton
 Lillian Norris

Verda Washington
 Laurie Lynch
 Mason Culbertson
 Melvin JR Nobles
 Robbi Johnston
 Ronita Boullt

VII. Public Comment (2 minutes per speaker)

- a. Written Comment

VIII. Commission Affairs

- a. Chair Updates
 - i. None received
- b. Retreat
 - i. Small group work proposal – Committee Assessment and Work Plan Setting
 - 1. Commission discussed what committees are still relevant to the commission and how we want to include that in the retreat goal setting. Determined the goal of the retreat is to finalize what committees will continue (new, reformed or continue).
- c. Recruitment
 - i. Liaison Shattuck will provide the list of commissioners with current term end dates in order to determine what recruitment should look like in the fall

IX. City Staff Updates – OEHR Staff

- a. General Updates
 - i. Introduction of New Assistant Director Mariama Suwaneh
- b. Case Closures
 - i. Employment Discrimination Case (HRC # 4929, EEOC # 38F-2023-0008) closed re: No Reasonable Cause

X. Announcements

XI. Items to Consider for Next Meeting:

XII. Adjourn

- a. Commissioner Langbehn made a motion to close the meeting at 7:33 PM.
- b. Commissioner Oswal seconded the motion.
- c. The Ayes have it and the meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Why do we recognize the land?

To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory you reside on, and a way of honoring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial. It is important to understand the long-standing history that has brought you to reside on the land, and to seek to understand your place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation. It is also worth noting that acknowledging the land is Indigenous protocol.

–<http://www.lspirg.org/knowtheland>

Commissioners

Amanda Westrbooke
C. Ivan Johnson
Janice Langbehn
Keshreeyaji Oswal
Bri Crofton
Lillian Norris

Verda Washington
Laurie Lynch
Mason Culbertson
Melvin JR Nobles
Robbi Johnston
Ronita Boullt



The City of Tacoma does not discriminate on the basis of disability in any of its programs, activities, or services. To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (253) 591-5505. TTY or speech to speech users please dial 711 to connect to Washington Relay Services.

NOTES

Commissioners

- Amanda Westrbooke
- C. Ivan Johnson
- Janice Langbehn
- Keshreeyaji Oswal
- Bri Crofton
- Lillian Norris

- Verda Washington
- Laurie Lynch
- Mason Culbertson
- Melvin JR Nobles
- Robbi Johnston
- Ronita Boullt