



Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Date: May 18, 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

- **Discussion of Monthly Business Meeting Day/Time Potential Change**
 - *Discussed changing day of standing meeting to the second Monday of each month from 5:30 pm – 7:30 PM*
- **Discussion of Annual Retreat**
 - **Location, Day/Time, Topics to be covered**
 - *Vice-Chair Johnston to send out updated survey link to determine folks availability in order to set logistics for retreat during summer months*
 - *Will there be a facilitator? Is there a budget for that?*
- **General Questions/Discussion**
 - *Can we do outreach to local neighborhood councils and offer information about HRC and also services available through OEHR?*

Commissioners

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

Verda Washington
Laurie Lynch
Mason Culbertson
Melvin JR Nobles
Robbi Johnston

- *What are other HRCs doing around community topics such as homelessness, community resiliency, and what are the boundaries of our activities?*

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

I. Call Meeting to Order – Chair Amanda Westbrooke
a. **Meeting Called to Order at 6:35 PM.**

II. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences

- Amanda Westbrooke, Chair (she/her)
- Mason Culbertson, Vice Chair (they/them)
- Robbi Johnston, Vice Chair (she/her)
- Keshreeyaji Oswal (he/him)
- Janice Langbehn (she/her) - EXCUSED
- 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)

III. Approval of May 2023 Business Meeting Agenda – Chair Westbrooke
a. Commissioner Noble made a motion to approve the agenda.
b. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion.
c. The Ayes have it and the Business Agenda is approved.

IV. Statement of Purpose – Vice Chair Culbertson
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 – Vice Chair Johnston

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

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Artyom Yakimovich
C. Ivan Johnson
Janice Langbehn
Keshreeyaji Oswal

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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 –Chair Westbrooke

- a. Approval of April 2023 Minutes Agenda(Aye/Nay Votes)
 - i. Commissioner Lynch made a motion to approve the agenda.
 - ii. Commissioner Culbertson seconded the motion.
 - iii. The Ayes have it and the Consent Agenda is approved.

VII. Public Comment (2 minutes per speaker)

VIII. Commission Affairs

- a. Chair Updates
 - i. No Updates this month
- b. Monthly Meeting Day/Time Change
 - i. Motion to Change Standing monthly meeting time from the third Thursday of each month – Study Session at 5:30 PM and Business Meeting at 6:30 PM to the second Monday of each month – Study Session at 5:30 PM and Business Meeting at 6:30 PM
 - 1. Commissioner Crofton made a motion to approve the Meeting Day change.
 - 2. Commissioner Norris seconded the motion.
 - 3. The Ayes have it and the Motion for Meeting Day change is approved.
 - ii. The next scheduled meeting of the Human Rights Commission shall be on Monday, June 12th, 2023 at 5:30 PM.
- c. Retreat Planning
 - i. Discussed during the Study Session and a Survey shall be sent to determine date/time and topics for the retreat – ask all commissioners to complete prior to the next meeting
- d. Committee Updates
 - i. Policy and Advocacy
 - 1. No meeting since last Commission meeting.
 - ii. Education and Outreach
 - 1. No meeting since last Commission meeting.
 - iii. Racial Justice and Equity
 - 1. No meeting since last Commission meeting.
 - iv. Housing Equity Taskforce
 - 1. Commissioners Crofton, Norris and Culbertson agreed to represent HRC in this workgroup.
- e. Juneteenth Event – Thursday, June 15th at Tollefson Plaza, 5 pm – 8 pm
 - i. HRC June meeting – Change of Venue or Cancel?
 - 1. New day of standing will be on Mondays and we will start that in June so no need to change venue or cancel the June meeting.

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- Motion made to start new date change in June instead of July in order to have an official meeting in June.
 - i. Commissioner Nobles made a motion to approve the start date of the Meeting change to June 12th.
 - ii. Commissioner Norris seconded the motion.
 - iii. The Ayes have it and the Motion for Meeting Day change to start in June is approved.

f. Action Steps from last HRC Meeting

IX. City Staff Updates – OEHR Staff

- a. Case Closures
 - i. Fair Housing
 - 1. 1 case presented for closure based on No Reasonable Cause
 - ii. EEOC
 - 1. 5 cases presented for closure (4 based on No Reasonable Cause and 1 Withdrawal)
- b. Organizational Chart of OEHR with Staff Names and Responsibilities
 - i. Reviewed with Director Woods – PowerPoint sent out previously to HRC members)

X. Announcements

- a. Tacoma Pride July 8th

XI. Items to Consider for Next Meeting:

- a. Follow-up on public comment related to homelessness intervention by Neighborhood and Community Services
- b. Retreat Planning

XII. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 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>



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