



Minutes
Human Rights Commission
Study Session

Date: Monday, February 12, 2024

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

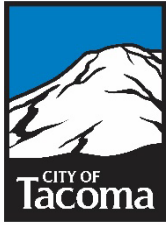
Meeting called to order at 5:40 PM

- Presentation of Tacoma for Justice in Palestine – proposal to pass a resolution for a permanent ceasefire and justice in Palestine
 - Information shared about letter writing campaign, other municipalities and gov'ts with resolutions
 - Ask for support for a City of Tacoma Resolution for Ceasefire
 - Sample Language offered
- Presentation: Draft Home In Tacoma Packet and Public Comment Period by Alyssa Torrez, Senior Planner Planning and Development Services.
 - Discussion about considering Pierce Transit zoning in decision making (fixed vs. microtransit)
 - Ante Displacement Strategy Update at a future study session

Commissioners

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

Verda Washington
Laurie Lynch
Melvin JR Nobles
Robbi Johnston
Ronita Boullt
Lily Nop



Minutes
Human Rights Commission
Business Meeting

Date: Monday, February 12, 2024

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):

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Meeting ID: 819 0891 5518

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

I. Call Meeting to Order – Vice Chair Johnston

Meeting called to order at 6:34 PM

II. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences

- Amanda Westbrooke, Chair (she/her) - excused
- Robbi Johnston, First Vice Chair (she/her)
- Keshreeyaji Oswal (he/him)
- Janice Langbehn (she/her) - excused
- Verda Washington (she/her)
- Melvin JR Nobles (he/him) - absent
- Bri Crofton (they/them)

Commissioners

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

Verda Washington
Laurie Lynch
Melvin JR Nobles
Robbi Johnston
Ronita Boullt
Lily Nop

- C. Ivan Johnson (he/him)
- Ronita Boullt (she/her) - absent
- Lillian Norris (she/her) - absent
- Laurie Lynch (she/her)
- Lily Nop, Youth Seat (she/her)

III. Approval of February 2024 Business Meeting Agenda – Vice Chair Johnston

- a. *Commissioner Crofton 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 – Commissioner Crofton

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 Nop

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 January 2024 Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)
 - a. *Commissioner Oswal made a motion to approve the January 2024 Minutes.*
 - b. *Commissioner Lynch seconded the motion.*
 - c. *The Ayes have it and the January 2024 Minutes record is approved.*
- b. Resignation of Commissioner Langbehn
 - i. *Resignation Accepted and Commissioner Langbehn thanked by Commissioner Oswal for their service to the Human Rights Commission.*
- c. Election of Second Vice Chair
 - i. Nominations from the floor for Second Vice Chair
 - 1. Commissioner Washington self-nominated
 - a. *Commissioner Lynch made a motion for Commissioner Washington to serve in open seat of Second Vice Chair.*
 - b. *Commissioner Oswal seconded the motion.*

Commissioners

Amanda Westrbooke
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- c. *The Ayes have it and Commissioner Washington was elected as Second Vice Chair.*

VII. Public Comment (2 minutes per speaker)

VIII. City Staff Updates – OEHR Staff

- a. General Updates
 - i. Recruitment Outreach
 - 1. Applications reviewed and Interview/Appointment on February 22, 2024
- b. Case Closures
 - i. 2 Fair Housing Cases
 - ii. 2 Employment Cases
- c. Upcoming Engagement Opportunities
 - i. Spanish Radio Interview on Sunday, February 18th
 - ii. Resource Fair at Star Center on Thursday, February 29th 2 pm – 5 pm

IX. Commission Affairs

- a. Chair Updates
 - i. Thank you to Commissioners finishing their term
 - ii. CVS 2023 Annual Report Review - [20240208 Community Vitality and Safety Committee \(granicus.com\)](#)
- b. Committee Updates
 - i. Education and Outreach
 - 1. Chair Norris
 - *Update – meeting occurred, and work plan priorities proposed*
 - ii. Policy, Advocacy, and Accountability
 - 1. *Chair Oswal announced that Commissioner Crofton will be assuming the role as the chair as his Commissioner term is ending this month.*
 - iii. Racial Justice
 - 1. Chair

X. Announcements

XI. Items to Consider for Next Meeting:

Commissioner Johnson asked if there will be an HRC hosted Juneteenth Celebration in June 2024. Staff advised they will speak to leadership and offer information at Commission meeting in March.

Commissioners

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XII. Adjourn

- a. *Commissioner Lynch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM.*
- b. *Commissioner Oswal seconded the motion.*
- c. *The Ayes have it and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 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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NOTES

Commissioners

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