



Date: February 27, 2023
Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Hybrid Tacoma Municipal Building

747 Market Street
Conference Room #243 and #220-A (Interpretation Room)
Tacoma, WA 98402

Zoom (Click the following link to join the meeting):

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91791840410?pwd=d3lyYW44Tm8wT1NrNIU4ekRsWERnQT09>

Meeting ID: 917 9184 0410

Passcode: 264285

Real-time Spanish translation will be available during the meeting.

I. Call Meeting to Order Meeting was called to order by Chair Donaldson at 5:36

- II. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences**
Chair Donaldson
- Emani Donaldson (Vice-Chair)
 - Natalie Ghayoumi
 - Stacy Kowalski
 - Samantha Le
 - Maurice Lekea
 - Hieu Nguyen
 - Hugo Nicolas
 - ~~Thierry Ruboneka~~ (absent)
 - Maricres Valdez Castro
 - Alma Villegas
 - Leena Vo
 - Lydia Zepeda
 - Alternate (Vacant)
 - Youth Position (Vacant)

III. Statement of Purpose– Read by Commissioner Leena Vo
Read by Commissioner Samantha Le

IV. Land Acknowledgment

Commissioners

Emani Donaldson
Natalie Ghayoumi
Stacy Kowalski
Samantha Le
Maurice Lekea
Hieu Nguyen

Hugo Nicolas
Thierry Ruboneka
Maricres Valdez-Castro
Alma Villegas
Leena Vo
Lydia Zepeda

V. Consent Agenda
Chair Donaldson

a. Approval of February 27, 2023, Meeting Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Zepeda to adopt the February 27 meeting agenda; the motion was seconded by Commission V. Castro.

The ayes have it and the February 27th agenda was approved.

b. Approval of the January 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Villegas to approve the January 2023 Meeting Minutes; the motion was second made by Commission Le

The ayes have it and the January 2023 minutes approved.

VI. Public Comment No members of the public were present.

Members from TPD present:

- Bervin Smith, new to TPD as a Community Engagement Officer. Is excited to meet community members; please contact him bsmith7@cityoftacoma.org
- Officer Steve Butts sitting in for Officer Ali; also, is a Community Engagement Officer.
 - [Reported on Safe Place Initiative](#)

VII. Commission Affairs

a. Commissioner Spotlight – Commissioner Alma Villegas

- Born & raised in Tijuana Mexico and lived there until she was 17. Privilege of being a naturalized citizen, and bilingual from living in a border town.
- Has a background in Theater; worked extensively in theater and community engagement, serving immigrant communities.
- Has been working in multi-cultural, and racial equity consulting since 2015.
- Played in band Alma y Azucar for almost 20 -years.

b. CVS Feedback from Annual Report

- In presentation: CIRA asked for more interaction with CMs, more power sharing in commissioner appointments and interviews, and a funding request for Welcoming Interactive. Council is already acting on all of these.

Q. Will it just be Chair & Vice Chair that review and interview potential commissioners?

- This is still to be determined.
- We could choose members that are not up for re-appointment.

Commissioners

Emani Donaldson
Natalie Ghayoumi
Stacy Kowalski
Samantha Le
Maurice Lekea
Hieu Nguyen

Hugo Nicolas
Thierry Ruboneka
Maricress Valdez-Castro
Alma Villegas
Leena Vo
Lydia Zepeda

c. CIRA Recruitment Expectations Document

- Recruitment efforts will focus on making sure in-coming commissioners have range of skills, interest, or expertise in committee topics (Language Justice, Governance, Community Safety, etc.) and direct/lived experience with immigrant and refugee communities.
- We need feedback on: CIRA priorities and interview questions.

Questions:

Can CIRA commissioners who are up for re-appointment be a part of the process at all?

- Currently City Council has the delegated authority to appointment Commissioners.
- Liaison Ware Suggests that CIRA work on establishing policies and practices how CIRA shares the responsibility & power of application and review.

For applicants that are not appointed, how can we communicate with community members that they can participate CIRA committee work?

- CIRA members can share this with applicants in closing comments in the interviews.

Next Steps:

- If interested in assisting with recruitment efforts, please some come to Governance Committee.
- Would like to organize meeting pre & post recruitment interview meeting with Deputy Mayor Ushka.
- Possibly invite candidates to March CIRA meeting.

d. Welcoming Interactive Discussion and Vote

Welcoming Interactive is April 26-28

Liaison Ware sent expectations of conference attendance.

- Time and commitment to attend conference, in addition to pre and post meetings with OEHR and City Council, presentation to CIRA and Council, and potentially someone who can potentially lead Welcoming Week committee.
- Looking for commissioners who are interested in taking on leadership roles; and commissions who are working directly with immigrant and refugee population.

Who would like to volunteer to attend the Welcoming Interactive?

- Chair Donaldson
- Commissioner V. Castro (Nominated by Zepeda)

Commissioners

Emani Donaldson
Natalie Ghayoumi
Stacy Kowalski
Samantha Le
Maurice Lekea
Hieu Nguyen

Hugo Nicolas
Thierry Ruboneka
Maricress Valdez-Castro
Alma Villegas
Leena Vo
Lydia Zepeda

- Commissioner Lekea (Nominated by Commissioner Castro)

Commissioner Villegas concerns:

Would not like to see commissioners pay out of pocket. Additionally – there is concern about people potentially wearing multiple hats/ or representing multiple groups.

That we outline the expectations of CIRA priorities in.

Commissioner Nguyen questions:

Do we have time draft our priorities before we vote and send folks to Welcoming Interactive?

Commissioner Zepeda: Priorities are Language Justice, Governance, and Community Safety; our priority is not event planning.

Motion made by Commissioner Zepeda: Commissioner Lekea be the second commissioner; Commissioner Castro is the alternate commissioner.

The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Villegas.

The ayes have it and the Chair Donaldson and Commissioner Lekea will go to the Welcoming Interactive; Commissioner Castro will be the alternate.

e. Welcoming Week Planning Needs

Can we decide on who is interested in working with Welcoming Week?

City Council approved \$20k budget line item for OEHR to help host Welcoming Week. This would be a city-planned event, not a CIRA hosted event. The request of CIRA is to attend the events & committee to see how we “Welcoming Week” could be formed.

f. Committee Updates and Overview of work.

Community Safety Committee Wednesday, 2023-03-15, 11 am to 12 pm
Committee Report from Commissioner Zepeda:

-Budget item CIRA requested for food handler permits was denied because they are not required to NWICEP kitchen are not required.

-Commissioner Castro brought to our attention HB5623 Hate Crime Bill in Washington State. Committee supports this house bill.

-Working on content for posters around human trafficking presentation

-C. Thierry working on Trauma Informed Policing.

-TPD now has cards in multiple languages on how to report non-emergency crimes (nuisance, etc.).

-Bervin Smith attended meeting and spoke about how is trying to increase engagement with Immigrant Communities.

Commissioners

Emani Donaldson
Natalie Ghayoumi
Stacy Kowalski
Samantha Le
Maurice Lekea
Hieu Nguyen

Hugo Nicolas
Thierry Ruboneka
Maricress Valdez-Castro
Alma Villegas
Leena Vo
Lydia Zepeda

- Governance (of CIRA) Committee Wednesday, 2023-03-08, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
 - Staff Liaison Ware is working on a template form on how to make Budget Requests
 - Would like commissioners to help with agenda planning, and taking turns on various facilitation, and planning commissioner spotlights.
 - Language Justice: in a good position after appointments to revive the language access committee. Maria Gamez has done tremendous work on creating the language access plan. LJ Resolution is going to be put forth which is a joint effort between COT, TPCHD, and Metro Parks.

VIII. City Staff Updates - Staff Liaison Raeshawna Ware

- a. TPD Convening with CIRA, TACOD, and HRC
Meeting is planned for April 26th. Event is happening at the Peace Community Center. Formal invite is forth coming. Questions have been submitted to TPD in advance.
- b. Council Contingency Fund Request
Request will be heard at City Council Study Session tomorrow (2/28) starting at noon.
- c. Question(s) for CBC Application
The city-wide CBC application process is being revised. All CBCs are being asked to submit one question that is CIRA specific.
Staff Liaison Ware presented three questions for CIRA to review.
Eight commissioners voted for questions C (2 for A).

IX. Items to consider for Next Meeting No new items were presented

X. Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM

Commissioners

Emani Donaldson
Natalie Ghayoumi
Stacy Kowalski
Samantha Le
Maurice Lekea
Hieu Nguyen

Hugo Nicolas
Thierry Ruboneka
Maricress Valdez-Castro
Alma Villegas
Leena Vo
Lydia Zepeda