



**Minutes
Human Rights Commission**

Date: March 23, 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

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order – Chair Amanda Westbrooke

a. **Meeting Called to Order at 6:31 PM**

II. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences

~~Mason Culbertson (they/them) (Vice-Chair)~~

Robbi Johnston (she/her) (Vice-Chair)

Verda Washington (she/her)

~~C. Ivan Johnson~~

Melvin JR Nobles (he/him)

*Mason Culbertson excused

Chair Westbrooke (she/her)

Keshreeyaji Oswal (he/him)

Janice Langbehn (she/her)

Laurie Lynch (they/them/she/her)

~~Ronita Boulton~~

Commissioners

Amanda Westbooke

C. Ivan Johnson

Janice Langbehn

Keshreeyaji Oswal

Verda Washington

Laurie Lynch

Mason Culbertson

Melvin JR Nobles

Norman Brickhouse

Robbi Johnston

Guests present: OEHR Staff Michael Hourani
Seven (7) members present = Quorum

III. Approval of Business Meeting Agenda – Chair Westbooke

- a. **Commissioner Lynch made a motion to approve the agenda.**
- b. **Commissioner Langbehn 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 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 February Minutes 2023 (Aye/Nay Votes)
 - i. **Commissioner Nobles made a motion to approve the agenda.**
 - ii. **Commissioner Lynch seconded the motion.**
 - iii. **The Ayes have it and the Consent Agenda is approved (Commissioner Langbehn abstained).**

VII. Public Comment (2 minutes per speaker)

VIII. Commission Affairs

- a. Chair Updates
 - i. TMP Editorial Discussion
 - ii. State of City Discussion
- b. Upcoming Events
 - i. Fair Housing Month Proclamation
 1. Tuesday, **April 4th** at 5 PM (date change from April 11)
 - ii. HRC Commissioner Interviews with CVS Committee
 1. Thursday, April 13th at 4:30 PM
 - iii. CBC Chief Forum Meeting

Commissioners

Amanda Westbooke
Artyom Yakimovich
C. Ivan Johnson
Janice Langbehn
Keshreyaji Oswal

Verda Washington
Laurie Lynch
Mason Culbertson
Melvin JR Nobles
Robbi Johnston

1. Wednesday, April 26th at 5 PM at Peace Community Center
- c. OPMA Training – to be completed in 90 days
 - i. 5 lessons – about 15-30 minutes each training
 - ii. You will receive a certificate which should be forwarded to Staff member Nancy for record keeping
 - iii. Email, texts, and social media are common ways you may inadvertently violate the OPMA. A good rule of thumb is to never Reply All or comment if you see a quorum of Board members listed or included in any communication.
- d. Retreat Planning
 - i. **Survey showed Saturday, May 20th mid-day as the most available option for the majority of Commissioners.**
 1. **Date to be confirmed at April HRC meeting in order to allow input from new Commissioners to be appointed at April CVS meeting**
- e. Committee Updates
 - i. Policy and Advocacy
 - ii. Education and Outreach
 - iii. Racial Justice and Equity
- f. Action Steps from last HRC Meeting
 - i. Survey –
 - ii. Youth Seat Update – Commissioner Oswal

IX. City Staff Updates – OEHR Staff

- a. Introduction of New Staff
 - i. Employment Discrimination Investigator Michael Hourani
- b. Case Closures
 - i. Esther Shin v. St Joseph Medical Center – CHI Franciscan
HRC # 4909; EEOC # 38G-2021-00406
 - ii. Fair Housing Center of Washington v. Double Z Properties, Inc.
HRC 4912. , HUD 10-22-9359-8
 - **Report out from Staff about each case closure details.**
- c. Outreach Opportunity
 - i. Fair Housing Training Video Voice Over
 - ii. Rental Housing Code Survey
 1. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COTRental23>
- d. Youth Seat Recruitment
 - i. **Staff meeting in April to discuss policy development for Youth Seat Recruitment and Support**
- e. Housing Equity Task Force

X. Announcements

Commissioners

Amanda Westrbooke
 Artyom Yakimovich
 C. Ivan Johnson
 Janice Langbehn
 Keshreyaji Oswal

Verda Washington
 Laurie Lynch
 Mason Culbertson
 Melvin JR Nobles
 Robbi Johnston

XI. Items to Consider for Next Meeting:

XII. Adjourn

a. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 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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Artyom Yakimovich
C. Ivan Johnson
Janice Langbehn
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