

Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Study Session

Date: Monday, July 10, 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

Called to order at 5:37 PM

- Juneteenth Feedback/Follow-up
 - Well attended event, around 300 people over the 3 hours. Many handprints added to the BLM mural, fun and informative
- PRIDE Feedback/Follow-up
 - Well attended event, about 261 came to the OEHR booth to receive information about Human Rights, great to see so many people out and enjoying all the booths. Chair

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
Ronita Boullt

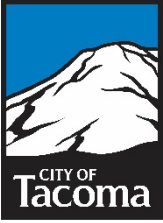
Westbrooke encouraged other HRC members to come out and be part of booths at community events in order to share about our work

- Brainstorm session – Local organizations/programs in City of Tacoma that you would like to have invited to present to speak on their work and how it relates to Human Rights in Tacoma.
 - Black Collective, Michael Jordan
 - Comprehensive Live Resources
 - Homeless Coalition, Teresa Powers
 - Anti-Defamation League (extremist activity in Washington)
 - Tacoma Public Schools – Anti-Bias education and what is happening post pandemic to support students and staff
 - Information about Supreme Court Decisions and how they impact Tacoma
 - UPS professors/Seattle U Law Professors potential guests
 - * Nancy will connect with different commissioners and organizations to invite to future Study Sessions – will try to create a calendar of invitees
- Final Retreat Logistics Review
 - Reviewed during Business Meeting

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Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Business Meeting

Date: Monday, July 10, 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):

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Meeting ID: 819 0891 5518

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order – Chair Amanda Westbrooke

a. Meeting called to order at 6:34 PM

II. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences

Amanda Westbrooke, Chair (she/her)

Mason Culbertson, Vice Chair (they/them)

Commissioners

Amanda Westbrooke
C. Ivan Johnson
Janice Langbehn
Keshreeyaji Oswal
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Robbi Johnston
Ronita Boullt

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

III. Approval of July 2023 Business Meeting Agenda – Chair Westbooke

- a. Commissioner Culbertson made a motion to approve the agenda.
- b. Commissioner Nobles 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 June 2023 Minutes Agenda(Aye/Nay Votes)
 - a. Commissioner Crofton made a motion to approve the June Minutes.
 - b. Commissioner Culbertson seconded the motion.
 - c. The Ayes have it and the June Minutes record is approved.

VII. Public Comment (2 minutes per speaker)

VIII. Commission Affairs

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

- a. Chair Updates
 - i. No updates
- b. Retreat
 - Previously discussed the schedule of Retreat for Saturday, August 19th 10 am – 2 pm
 - i. Commissioner Culbertson made a motion to accept Commissioner Johnson’s invitation to hold the retreat at Greater Destiny Church located at 324 North J St, Tacoma, WA 98403.
 - ii. Commissioner Nobles seconded the motion.
 - iii. The Ayes have it and the motion to host the retreat at the Greater Destiny Church is approved.
 - iv. Working with Contracting for Lawrence Garrett to be the facilitator for the retreat

IX. City Staff Updates – OEHR Staff

- a. General Updates
 - i. Nancy Shattuck has been named the Human Rights Manager and her previous position for Outreach and Education will be open for hiring in the next week or two.
 - ii. ChiQuata Elder shared about the current status of the Rental Housing Code updates.
- b. Case Closures
 - i. Russ Alarcon presented two housing discriminations for closure as No Reasonable Cause.
 - ii. Michael Hourani presented one employment discrimination for closure as No Reasonable Cause.

X. Announcements

XI. Items to Consider for Next Meeting:

XII. Adjourn

- a. Commissioner Culbertson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 PM.
- b. Commissioner Lynch seconded the motion.
- c. The Ayes have it and the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 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

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NOTES

Commissioners

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