

Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Study Session

Date: Monday, September 11, 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

- **Study Session began at 5:40 PM**

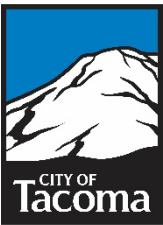
- Introduction of Erik Furer as HRC Legal Advisor
 - Potential to have future training/discussion about OPMA, TMC 1.29 and other topics.
- Committee Access
 - Discussion about committee logistics and how to improve access to all commissioners (ie. Offer hybrid option)

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

- Retreat Follow-up
 - Commissioners offered feedback about the Retreat including
 1. Ensure access through a hybrid model for future meetings
 2. Provide map to location
 3. Topics were helpful, opportunity for cohesion and consensus building
 4. Groupwork to determine path forward for committees determined the current model would continue. Was it necessary to do this process to ultimately continue with the same committees?
 5. Assistant Director Suwaneh was a great facilitator.



Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Business Meeting

Date: Monday, September 11, 2023

Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Business Meeting

Location: Hybrid Tacoma Municipal Building

747 Market Street

Conference Room #243

Tacoma, WA 98402

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

III. Approval of September 2023 Business Meeting Agenda – Chair Westbrooke

- a. There was not a quorum at this point in the Business meeting.

IV. Statement of Purpose – Commissioner Nobles

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 Crofton

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

Commissioners

Amanda Westbrooke
C. Ivan Johnson
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Lillian Norris

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- a. **There was not a quorum at this point in the Business Meeting, items will be added to the October Business Meeting Agenda.**

- i. Approval of August 2023 Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)
- ii. Approval of August 2023 Retreat Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)

VII. Public Comment (2 minutes per speaker)

- a. Public Comment (Oral and Written) received from Sally Perkins, community member.

VIII. Commission Affairs

- a. Chair Updates
 - i. No updates.
- b. Committee Updates (Announcement of Chair of each Committee and Proposed Workplan/goals)
 - i. Education and Outreach
 1. First meeting held Sunday, September 3rd at 1 PM via Zoom.
 2. Members present: Boullt, Culbertson, Johnston, Norris, Washington (Liaison Shattuck)
 3. Chair is Commissioner Norris
 4. Workplan goals include:
 - Review the 2022-2023 Outreach Activities performed and determine what groups/communities should be included for the next year.
 - Review outreach materials being used currently to improve language inclusivity
 5. Meetings are scheduled for the 1st Sunday of each month
 - ii. Policy, Advocacy, and Accountability
 1. First meeting held Wednesday, September 6th at 6 PM in person.
 2. Members present: Oswal, Langbehn
 3. Chair is Commissioner Oswal.
 4. Workplan goals include:
 - Review the current bylaws and suggest updates to be voted on by the Commission.
 - Review the current members of the Human Rights Commission and make recommendations for recruitment
 - Review prior policy recommendations/workplans to determine current priorities.
 - iii. Racial Justice
 1. No meeting has been held.
 2. Members include: Johnson, Nobles and Westbrooke
 3. Meeting to be scheduled before the next Commission meeting.

IX. City Staff Updates – OEHR Staff

- a. General Updates

Commissioners

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- i. Upcoming Outreach Opportunities
 - 1. Welcoming Week Activities
 - 2. Rental Housing Code Update Engagements
- b. Case Closures - None

X. Announcements

XI. Items to Consider for Next Meeting:

- a. October Study Session will be attended by the UW Center for Human Rights Director Angelina Snodgrass Godoy and Michael Forman to share about their work and a presentation about their work on the detention center.

XII. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 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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Commissioners

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