



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Meeting Summary
January 12, 2022

Participants:

Board Members Present:

Angelo Arredondo, Chair; Bonnie Davidson; Amelia Knight; Susan McNaught; Kelsey Murray; Cathy Ostrand-Ponsioen; Tricarico Schwartz

Board Members Absent:

Krista Gallagher, Vice Chair; Leah Brooks; Oni Marchbanks

Staff:

Gretchen Bennett, Mayor/City Manager's Office; Lt. Debbie Aguilar, Police Department

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Review of Agenda

The YouTube channel transmission/recording was noted. Chair Arredondo called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. Introductions were shared.

2. Public Comment

None provided.

3. Consent Calendar

Commissioner Ostrand-Ponsioen motioned to approve the consent calendar which consisted of the agenda and meeting minutes; Commissioner Rheinholdt seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Action and/or Discussion Items:

a. Officer Elections: The group discussed the nomination process. Commissioner Schwartz nominated Commissioner Gallagher as Vice Chair; Gretchen confirmed she would be interested if elected. Commissioner Murray nominated Commissioner Arredondo as Chair; he confirmed he would be interested if elected. No other nominations were received. Commissioner McNaught moved that the nominations be approved; Commissioner Knight seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Chair Arredondo thanked the group and reminded this will be his last year of service.

b. Workplan: Chair Arredondo invited discussion regarding 2022 priorities. Are there new issues to consider? Will the task forces return? The group affirmed interest in core response training for the full Commission; Gretchen will include the previously developed training plan in the February meeting packet for discussion. The Awareness and LGBTQIA+ Intersectional Rights Task Forces were both reaffirmed to continue in 2022. The group noted the interest in connecting with more people in the community over the coming year and recognized new issues may develop. Commissioner McNaught will also serve on the Awareness Task Force. The Equity Asks work will continue.

c. **Bias Crime and Incident Report:** Lt. Aguilar reported one crime and three incidents.

b. **Complaints Report:** Gretchen reported one situation received during the month.

5. Task Force and Project Updates:

a. **Awareness:** Chair Ostrand-Ponsioen reported discussion on the Communications Plan, which was attached in the meeting packet. She noted a 'year in review' communication went out in December. The possibility of a student survey was noted; Gretchen will reach the professor to confirm availability.

b. **Equity Asks Report:** Gretchen discussed 'communication six' and Yaquina Hall. Discussion about mobile crisis response was held; a staff report is being prepared.

c. **Equity Lenses/Chapter 97:** Commissioner Schwartz announced the City Council unanimously supported Councilor Stapleton's motion to support the HRC recommendation. They noted questions will likely go to the full HRC rather than to a subcommittee. They noted the recent student survey illustrated need for the recommendation.

d. **LGBTQIA+ Intersectional Rights:** Commissioner Schwartz will report regularly to the team, as Chair Watters is no longer a member of the Commission but continues in their leadership role on the task force. They shared the team debriefed the Transgender Day of Remembrance and further developed the Safe Spaces program. Commissioner Murray will also participate on the task force.

6. **Staff Updates:** Gretchen noted recent Oregon Revised Statute changes related to discrimination.

7. **Calendar of Events:** No events shared.

8. **Return to Workplan discussion:** Chair Arredondo encouraged recruitment of a new commissioner to fit the Youth member slot. Commissioner Ostrand-Ponsioen would like to take a closer look at the Equity Asks tracker. Commissioner Schwartz would like to do more outreach while being realistic given the pandemic. The group affirmed:

- Keep Awareness and LGBTQIA+ Intersectional Rights Task Forces,
- Work on Safe Spaces program,
- Conduct another discrimination survey,
- Continue to raise awareness about the resource of the Commission,
- Provide more trainings to the Commission,
- Monitor progress of the Equity Asks,
- Get involved with community events where possible

The group noted it would be helpful to have a 2022 Priorities document. Gretchen will draft and get to Commissioner Ostrand-Ponsioen for feedback.

9. Member Remarks and Announcements:

Commissioner Rheinholdt noted his new leadership role with the Latino Business Alliance and suggested it could be a good place to discuss the Safe Spaces program. Commissioner Schwartz thanked the new Commissioners for their engagement.

Minutes respectfully presented by staff Gretchen Bennett.