



Spokane Human Rights Commission

Thursday, January 6th, 2021

5:30 PM-7:00 PM

[Meeting Link](#)

+1-408-418-9388

Access code: 146 882 7916

TIMES GIVEN ARE AN ESTIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Land Acknowledgment & Public Comment Period:

5:30 - 5:40	Land Acknowledgement Public Comment (3 minutes each). Citizens are invited to address the Commission on any topic not on the agenda.
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Commission Briefing Session:

5:40 - 5:45	A. Roll Call & Approval of the December Minutes and Budget	Chair Kissler
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Standing Update(s):

5:45 – 5:55	Welcome Commissioner Alex Knox	Alex Knox
5:55 – 6:05	Chair Report & Budget Update (10 mins)	Chair Kissler
6:05 – 6:10	Staff Report	Jerrall Haynes
6:10 – 6:20	2021 Human Rights Awards Proclamation	All
6:20- 6:30	Statement RE: Antisemitism in Boise	All
6:30-6:40	Guest Speaker at St. Mark's Lutheran	Guest
6:40-6:50	Church 2022 Workplan and Focus Areas	All
6:50-7:00	Executive Committee Responsibilities	All

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) INFORMATION: The City of Spokane is committed to providing equal access to its facilities, programs and services for persons with disabilities. The Council Briefing Center in the lower level of Spokane City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., is wheelchair accessible and also is equipped with an infrared assistive listening system for persons with hearing loss. Headsets may be checked out (upon presentation of picture I.D.) through the meeting organizer. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations or further information may call, write, or email Human Resources at 509.625.6363, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA, 99201; or msteinolfson@spokanecity.org. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Human Resources through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1. Please contact us forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting date.

	Adjournment	
1) Next Human Rights Commission meeting is scheduled for February 3rd, at 5:30pm (PST)		

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CITY OF SPOKANE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Chair's Report

January 6, 2022

Dear Commissioners,

This report also serves as an end-of-year report to the community and Spokane City Council, as prescribed in 22.1 of the SHRC bylaws.

I am pleased with the work the Commission, its OCR task force and committees accomplished during 2021—much of which was a continuation of efforts that began in late 2019 and 2020. Perhaps our most significant milestone was the official creation of the Office of Civil Rights, Equity & Inclusion and City Council also providing funding for three positions to staff that office. This positive news came upon the heels of welcoming Mr. Jerrall Haynes on board in his role as Civil Rights Coordinator, providing support to the SHRC while further developing the OCREI.

While the OCREI was the primary focus of the Commission this past year, other topics have been at the forefront of issues that are impacting our community: public safety and police reform, affordable housing and homelessness, access to city resources and information for those who speak non-English languages, and more. I believe that with a soon-to-be fully-staffed Commission (an average of 3 out of 9 positions were vacant most of the past year) and an up-and-coming OCREI will help us address these and other issues more effectively and expediently this year.

The Commission was able to conduct a few community outreach activities, such as the West Central neighborhood community gathering, the drive-through Pride parade, the GU International Hate Conference, etc. Hopefully the SHRC will be able to have an in-person presence, as well as continued virtual engagements, with the community at parades, marches, festivals, conferences and forums over the next year.

As part of our reduced outreach activities for this year, we had fewer expenses for sponsorships, event registrations, tabling expenses, production of printed materials, etc. We did investigate the use of utility mailing inserts for sending messages out to the community, although one drawback that has been ascertained is that not all tenants (renters) receive those notices, as they are sent to their landlords or property managers instead. Alternative options might be to send a postcard to a set of zip codes that may likely reach our target audience, as well as boosting (paid) posts on our Facebook page.

In addition, our Courageous Conversations series has been sluggish, with scheduling and communication difficulties among participants and planners. My hope is that a combination of

more fully-staffed committees (with new Commissioners coming on board), administrative support from the OCREI, and the engagement of community partners will help us schedule these much-needed community conversations soon.

Below is a summary of activities I participated in as Chair of the SHRC, as well as additional points of interest for the month of December:

- Social Media (Facebook)
 - Created event for January meeting.
 - Shared S-R op-ed about OCREI.
 - Posted announcement about the ordinance and budget approval for OCREI.
- Business cards have been printed for Commissioners Schreibman and Baker.
- OCR Exploratory Task Force
 - Task force will meet monthly as the City works to build out the OCREI that was officially established.
 - SHRC executive committee and several community group leaders will meet monthly with city staff to ensure progress is made and voices are heard.
 - Presented to City Council, along with Pui-Yan Lam, Kurtis Robinson, and Jerrall Haynes, about the importance of an OCREI, in advance of the resolution and budget approval.
 - Co-authored an op-ed in the Spokesman-Review about the need for the OCREI.
- Conducted an initial onboarding session with our newest Commissioner, Alex Knox. Awaiting the creation of his city email address for next steps.
- Forwarded candidate feedback and recommendations to the Mayor's Office for the third/last vacancy. Commissioners whose terms are ending this year: Commissioner Peace (up for reappointment to 2nd term; Dec. 31), Vice Chair Harrison (up for reappointment to 2nd term; Oct. 15), Commissioner Baker (youth representative appointment ends June 29).
- Established monthly meetings for the executive committee to review agenda items, minutes, etc. with Jerrall Haynes.
- Have requested updates to the city's SHRC website to note Commissioner Archer's reappointment to a second term and new effective term end date, as well as removal of Commissioner Moore from the list, who termed off in July.
- Responded to an inquiry from Latah County Human Rights Task Force for SHRC sign-on to a letter they have drafted regarding antisemitism in Boise.
- Responded to an inquiry from St. Mark's Lutheran church for SHRC to give a presentation to their group.
- Forwarded opportunity for Courageous Conversation with the Spokane Council of the Navy League of the United States to Commissioner Archer for consideration regarding historical landmarks and the Monaghan Statue.

Submitted by Lance Kissler, SHRC Chair



PROCLAMATION

A proclamation recognizing the 2021 Spokane Human Rights Champions for their commitment to protecting and advancing human rights, diversity, equity, and inclusion in our community.

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission (the “Commission”) is dedicated to addressing issues related to human rights and unjust discrimination and the implementation of programs consistent with the needs of all residents of the City of Spokane; and

WHEREAS, the Commission believes that it is important to recognize the individuals, organizations, and businesses that have championed human rights issues and demonstrated dedication to the advancement of human rights in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has partnered with the Spokane County Human Rights Task Force (the “Task Force”), to establish the Human Rights Awards Committee (“HRAC”) to plan and organize the Annual Spokane Human Rights Awards; and

WHEREAS, community members nominated individuals, organizations, and businesses for the Spokane Human Rights Awards, and winners were selected by the HRAC based on the nomination, as well as other factors including: history of community involvement, populations served, area of focus, and current events in the Spokane area and beyond.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission hereby honors the following individuals and organizations for their efforts to protect and advance human rights, and the positive impact their leadership has on the Spokane community. The 2021 Spokane Human Rights Champions are:

Jan Baker
Jennyfer Mesa
Angel Tomeo Sam
Katie Urbanek

Adopted by the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission on January 6, 2022.

Lance Kissler
Chair, City of Spokane Human Rights Commission

People throughout our state and region find all forms of hate and prejudice repulsive and are alarmed by the increasingly blatant demonstrations of antisemitism occurring in Boise. We can only imagine how it must feel for people, especially Jewish citizens, to find flyers on their doorsteps with disgusting caricatures of Jewish figures, describing the Covid pandemic as a Jewish plot, along with pellet gun ammunition. This is in addition to antisemitic slogans and swastikas sprayed widely on doorsteps, fences, and sidewalks and on tunnels leading to the Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial. Can this really be happening in our supposedly law-abiding state in these supposedly enlightened times?

The message to us all, whatever our beliefs or political affiliation is to speak up and unite against hate. We must teach our children and educate ourselves about lessons of past tragedies and how smaller incidents can grow to widespread violence and genocide. We look to our government and law enforcement to find and punish the perpetrators of these disgusting hate incidents.

We can't afford to be silent! Together we have the power to fight hate and promote human dignity. Let us reach out to people throughout our state and the country and assert that "Idaho is too Great for Hate" and that we care about all our neighbors and will work to create a more harmonious and safe future.

Account 0020-30830-18900-54999-99999

\$6,400.00

Spokane Human Rights Commission December 2, 2021

Meeting Minutes: Called to order at 5:30

Land Acknowledgment

Public Comment: none

Commission Briefing Session:

Commission Members Present: Lance Kissler, Hayley Harrison, Anwar Peace, Brennan Schreibman, Jac Archer, Councilwoman Wilkerson

Commission Member Not Present: Abigail Baker

Community Members Present: Alex Gibilisco City Council Staff, Jerrall Haynes, Maria Peck, Jake Rodgers

November Minutes approved

Discussion Items

1. Chair's report attached to the meeting packet
2. Equity Subcommittee- Alex Gibilisco
 - a. Gave summary of work and plans for future work. Wants to work on recruitment, collaboration on guiding principles and receive advice on policy best practices.
3. At-Large Vacancy Commissioner
 - a. Jake Rodgers- applicant introduced himself and gave explanation for applying
 - b. Maria Peck- applicant introduced herself and gave explanation for applying
4. Staff Update- Jerrall Haynes
 - a. Gave updates on engagement with other offices, civil rights complaints, internal meetings, some of the challenges that he's experienced
5. Committee Update
 - a. Executive- met and established reoccurring meeting, developing plans and set roles for committee
 - b. Civic Impact- no update
 - c. Outreach- no update
6. FY2022 Workplan Discussion
 - a. Commissioners should think about future Workplan

The Next Human Rights Commission Meeting scheduled Thursday, January 6th 2021 at 5:30pm.
Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.