



Spokane Human Rights Commission

Thursday, April 7th, 2022

5:30 PM-7:00 PM

[Meeting Link](#)

+1-408-418-9388

Access code: 249 204 38664

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.

Commission Briefing Session:

5:40 - 5:45 A. Roll Call & Approval of the March Minutes Chair Kissler

Standing Update(s):

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| 5:45 – 5:55 | Chairs Report | Chair Kissler |
| 5:55 – 6:15 | Volunteers of America Presentation | Rae-Lynn Barden |
| 6:15 – 6:20 | National Public Health Week Proclamation | All |
| 6:20 – 6:50 | Committee Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Committee • Civic Impact Committee • Outreach Committee | All |
| 6:50 - 7:00 | Upcoming Events | All |

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| | | |
| | Adjournment | |
| | 1) Next Human Rights Commission meeting is scheduled for May 5th, at 5:30pm (PST) | |

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 Spokane City Council Chamber 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.) at the City Cable 5 Production Booth located on the First Floor of the Municipal Building, directly above the Chase Gallery or 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.



Chair's Report

April 7, 2022

Dear Commissioners,

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 March and early April:

- Social Media (Facebook)
 - Created event for April meeting.
 - Shared the Courageous Conversation with Sean Gillespie event.
 - Shared information about the Equity Subcommittee.
 - Posted about the upcoming youth representative position (July 1).
 - Shared the Gonzaga University panel discussion on the Monaghan statue.
- Office of Civil Rights, Equity & Inclusion
 - Met with the task force to discuss next steps on the office creation and director job discretion.
 - Shared the initial job description for the director position with the task force.
 - Discussed the initial job description with the GSP workgroup.
 - Stakeholder group (community reps and SHRC exec committee) met with city administrator to review the initial job description and talk about next steps.
 - The group identified some changes that should be made and will begin drafting a second version.
 - The group will then gather community feedback and will propose modifications to the city administrator the week of April 26.
 - Targeting a posting date of May 5.
 - Mr. Jerrall Haynes was not part of the meeting in order to avoid any potential conflict of interest, should he decide to apply for the position.
- Will schedule onboarding with Commissioner Peck.
- Monaghan Statue
 - Received a request for a formal presentation by the US Navy League of Spokane/Ivan Urnovitz
 - Mike Piccolo, city attorney, shared some legal and historical information regarding the statue and the land
 - Attended the Gonzaga University panel discussion/presentation on April 5 (Commissioners Peace and Schreibman were also in attendance)
 - Executive Committee has had some conversations and is considering next steps regarding various presentations before adding the topic as an agenda item
 - Both parties above (Ivan and Mike) have noted their availability to present at the May SHRC meeting if requested to do so

- Informed Outreach Committee lead about upcoming outreach opportunities during EWU's Diversity & Inclusion Week.
- Attended a Western States Center briefing on human/civil rights issues in our region.
- Participated in Spokane NAACP episode of Challenging the Narrative to give an update on OCREI work.
- Assisted Mr. Haynes with a civil rights complaint/inquiry.

Submitted by Lance Kissler, SHRC Chair



PROCLAMATION

A proclamation recognizing the contributions of our public health workers.

WHEREAS, the during the first full week of April each year for the past 25 years, the American Public Health Association (APHA) brings together communities across the United States to observe National Public Health Week (NPHW) as a time to recognize the contributions of public health and highlight issues that are important to improving our nation's health; and

WHEREAS, public health professionals ensure everyone has a chance at a long and healthy life, which requires us to address the underlying causes of poor health and disease risk and acknowledge that those causes are rooted in how and where we live, learn, work and play; and

WHEREAS, NPHW provides an opportunity for the community to focus on inclusion and equity to ensure decisions are made with everyone's health in mind, so we can build healthier communities; and

WHEREAS, Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) was originally established as the Spokane County Health District in January 1970, when the City of Spokane and Spokane County merged their health departments, and now has a broader scope and approximately 250 employees serving a population of more than 400,000 in Spokane County; and

WHEREAS, the public health employees of SRHD and many other local, regional, national and international agencies and organizations have worked relentlessly and courageously over the past several years to help everyone through a pandemic, in addition to tackling numerous other health issues,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission celebrates National Public Health Week, April 4 through April 10, 2022, and thereby expresses our deepest gratitude to all our public health workers and encourages everyone to take action to improve the health of our communities.

Adopted by the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission on April 7, 2022.

Lance Kissler
Chair, City of Spokane Human Rights Commission

Spokane Human Rights Commission (HRC)
Meeting Minutes – March 3, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

Call to order at 5:34 p.m.

Land Acknowledgment

Public Comment: Ivan Urnovitz provided public comment. Mr. Urnovitz thanked the HRC for taking on the John R. Monaghan statue issue. He acknowledged that while these discussions may be difficult, they are necessary to reconcile our past and have a common story to move forward with together. He noted that similar issues will arise in the future and hopes that the interested parties can set a good precedent, show how things can be done constructively, bring forth the truth, and recognize people and events that didn't get their full due in the past.

No other public comment was requested.

Moment of Silence: Chair Kissler asked that attendees take a moment of silence to consider the events happening in the world, especially in Europe/Ukraine, and those who are affected both locally and abroad.

Commission Briefing Session:

A. *Roll call*

Commission Members Present: Lance Kissler, Hayley Harrison, Olivia Arballo-Saenz, Anwar Peace, Brennan Schreibman, Jac Archer, Abigail Baker, Maria Peck

Quorum present.

City Staff Present: Alex Gibilisco, Jerrall Haynes

Community members present: Ivan Urnovitz, Asti Gallina

City Council Liaison: Councilmember Zack Zappone

B. *Motion to approve February 2022 minutes:*

****Motion****

Commissioner Schreibman moved to approve the February 2022 minutes

Vice Chair Harrison seconded

Discussion: None

In favor: Commissioners Harrison, Arballo-Saenz, Peace, Archer, Schreibman

Opposed: None

Abstentions: Commissioners Baker, Peck

Motion carries; February 2022 meeting minutes are approved.

Standing Updates:

A. Introduction of Commissioner Maria Peck

Commissioner Peck introduced herself and provided an overview of her experience and past service.

Commissioner Archer inquired as to what Commissioner Peck is most excited to do as a new member. Commissioner Peck responded that she is interested in representing groups experiencing discrimination and learning about the intersection of the work of the HRC and the legal system.

Chair Kissler invited Commissioners Peace and Schreiber to provide an overview of the roles and composition of the Civic Impact and Outreach Committees. Commissioner Peace described the role of the Civil Impact Committee and invited Commissioner Peck to consider joining. Commissioner Peck indicated that the Civic Impact Committee's work aligns with her interests and experience and agreed to be a member.

B. Chair's Report and Budget Update

With respect to the budget, Chair Kissler noted that there had been no expenses since the last meeting, although some expenses re. business cards for the newly-appointed commissioners will likely come through soon.

Chair Kissler opened the floor to questions regarding the Chair's Report. There were no questions. With respect to the advertisement in The Fig Tree, Chair Kissler inquired whether the HRC should maintain the current ad at an increased rate of \$600 or convert to a black-and-white ad at a rate of \$275.

****Motion****

Commissioner Archer moved to place the advertisement in The Fig Tree at the \$275 black-and-white rate.

Vice Chair Harrison seconded

Discussion: None

In favor: Commissioners Harrison, Arballo-Saenz, Peace, Archer, Schreiber, Baker, Peck

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion carries; the expense for placing an advertisement in The Fig Tree at the \$275 black-and-white rate is approved.

Commissioner Archer inquired as to the status of a complaint regarding housing referenced in the Chair's Report. Chair Kissler explained that a complaint was received via email on January 13, 2022, from an individual expressing frustration regarding challenges obtaining affordable housing and difficulty accessing agency services. Chair Kissler connected the individual with Mr. Haynes and Carly Cortright, who provided the individual with contact information for an

outreach coordinator at the City. The City's outreach coordinator is currently working with the individual to obtain more information and identify resources.

C. Civic Impact Committee Update

Commissioner Peace provided an update re. the Civic Impact Committee's ongoing work. The committee met on February 27, 2022. The meeting focused on the Monaghan statue. The discussion focused on interpreting the HRC's prior November 4, 2021 resolution. After reviewing the resolution, the committee concluded that no further action is required by the HRC regarding the statue at this time.

Commissioner Peace, on behalf of the committee, requested more information from Chair Kissler and/or Mr. Haynes regarding the HRC's prior November 4, 2021 resolution. Specifically, whether the question re. ownership of the property had been answered, what City Council's official reception of the resolution was, and what steps Council has taken to work with the HRC regarding historical landmarks.

Chair Kissler advised that the resolution was passed on to City Council but was unaware of any updates since that time. Mr. Haynes reported that a community member with personal relationship ties to the Monaghan family had contacted him this week. The individual was interested in knowing what would happen to the statue if it were to be removed.

Commissioner Peace reiterated the importance of obtaining guidance from the City as to how to proceed going forward regarding addressing historical landmarks.

Mr. Haynes suggested that the HRC could consider drafting an official process and procedure for how to address landmarks for City Council's consideration, like the policy Spokane Public Schools drafted and followed when it addressed changing the names of schools and mascots.

Chair Kissler suggested that drafting a values statement to assist City Council in evaluating the landmarks may also be useful going forward.

Mr. Gibilisco noted that different City commissions may be involved depending on the landmark at issue. He suggested identifying relevant individuals within the City administration, including individuals from building and planning, and inviting those individuals to explain what the current process is and to assist in drafting suitable policies to fit within the existing framework.

Chair Kissler agreed and suggested reaching out to the Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office. Mr. Gibilisco noted that this office has a historian on staff, who may be able to assist in doing initial research.

Further discussion ensued regarding potential next steps. It was agreed that, as to the Monaghan statue, no further action needed to be taken at this time. The Civic Impact Committee will continue working to develop draft policies, procedures, and/or values statements to provide guidance for the City Council regarding other statues and landmarks. Chair Kissler will work with Mr. Haynes to see if the City clerk or legal department have any new information regarding

how to approach issues surrounding property ownership. Mr. Gibilisco noted that a planning staff member assisted in renaming Whistalks Way and suggested reaching out to Councilmember Wilkerson to identify who this individual was, as they may be able to share their research and any barriers they encountered. Commissioner Peace will schedule a follow-up meeting next week.

D. Outreach Committee Update

Commissioner Schreibman provided an update re. the Outreach Committee's ongoing work. He reported that February was a busy month for the committee. He noted that St. Mark's Lutheran Church had previously invited the HRC to present at one of its weekly forums on the topics of the historic evolution of human rights over the past 75 years, current pressing issues in Spokane, and ways to get involved. Commissioner Schreibman reported that he prepared a presentation and Powerpoint on those topics and presented them at the February 20, 2022 forum. He reported that the presentation was well-received, was conversational and dynamic, and that engagement was high. He indicated that he would make the presentation materials available in the Outreach folder for reference and future use.

Commissioner Schreibman further reported that on February 26, 2022, Gonzaga University's music program held a Social Justice Concert, which included a panel discussion with various community leaders. Commissioner Schreibman represented the HRC as a panelist in that discussion.

Commissioner Schreibman also reported that a teacher at Mead High School reached out and inquired about ways to better engage Mead's senior students in their human rights unit. Commissioner Schreibman offered to speak to the seniors. Because all Mead seniors take this class, he is currently working with the teachers to coordinate a date for a joint senior assembly (which would avoid having to give the same presentation to six separate classes). This event will occur sometime in March.

Commissioner Schreibman noted that the Outreach Committee met to discuss the topics the HRC had referred to it at the February 2022 meeting (mental health, affordable housing/houselessness, awareness of the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, and Inclusion (OCREI), and hate reporting). Per the referral motion, the committee is reaching out to groups already involved in mental health and affordable housing projects in the community to see what assistance the HRC/City Council may be able to provide. With respect to mental health, the committee is reaching out to the Spokane County Regional Service Area Behavioral Health Advisory Board, the Spokane chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and several other personal contacts in the community. With respect to affordable housing/houselessness, Commissioner Schreibman reported that he met someone at the St. Mark's forum who works for Catholic Charities and is responsible for its City grants. The committee will be in touch with this person to see if the HRC can assist Catholic Charities in interfacing with the City. With respect to affordable housing/houselessness, the committee is reaching out to the Spokane Low-Income Housing Consortium, Spokane Housing Authority Board, the Community Housing and Human Services Board, and Better Health Together (which is helping coordinate a community plan to end youth houselessness through a \$2.5 million grant the City and County received through HUD's Youth Homelessness

Demonstration Program). Finally, with respect to OCREI awareness and hate reporting, the committee is reaching out to the County Human Rights Taskforce. Commissioner Schreiber has also been plugging both the OCREI and hate reporting tool during his presentations at the community events.

Chair Kissler suggested contacting Rae-Lynn Barden at Volunteers of America, which runs several area shelters including Hope House. Chair Kissler will send out an email introduction. Chair Kissler also suggested that the committee advertise the youth commissioner position at outreach events. Finally, Chair Kissler noted that with summer coming up, the committee may want to consider looking for community events in which the HRC can participate.

Commissioner Archer advised of Saturday's upcoming protest re. houselessness. They also noted several additional contacts that may be helpful to the committee.

Commissioner Peck inquired as to why Frontier Behavioral Health was not included as an organization the committee was contacting. Commissioner Schreiber noted that one of his contacts is an employee of Frontier Behavioral Health and that the committee will be reaching out to them.

E. General Questions, Comments, or Request from Commissioners

Commissioner Peace expounded upon the details of this Saturday's protest, called "Shelters, Not Fences." It will take place at 221 W. 1st Avenue at 12:00 p.m. Commissioner Peace encouraged everyone to attend. Commissioner Baker inquired about who is organizing the event so that she could promote it. Commissioner Archer shared the Facebook event in the meeting chat. Chair Kissler advised that the event is being put on by the Spokane Homeless Coalition in conjunction with Eastern Washington University's Master's in Social Work students.

Chair Kissler noted that the week of April 4 is National Public Health Week and inquired as to whether the Commission would like to consider issuing a proclamation or announcement thanking our public health professionals who have guided us throughout the pandemic. If the Commission is in agreement, Chair Kissler will draft a proclamation/announcement for the Commission to approve at the April 7 meeting. No concerns were raised.

Chair Kissler solicited commissioners' thoughts about returning to in-person meetings as protocols and guidelines allow. Commissioners Peace and Archer noted that they would not feel comfortable at this point in time. Councilmember Zappone noted that City Council is trying to move back to in-person meetings as quickly as possible. Mr. Gibilisco indicated that City Hall was working to identify options for hybrid meeting options. Chair Kissler agreed that hybrid options would be preferable to provide the most access. Commissioner Schreiber flagged that the Governor's Proclamation 20-28.15, issued in January 2021, remains operative, which requires public bodies to make hybrid options available in order to comply with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Commissioner Peck inquired whether the Commission had considered reaching out to the Fire Department's Community Assistance Response (CAREs) Team regarding partnering on mental health issues. Commissioner Schreibman took note of the suggestion.

Adjournment:

Chair Kissler adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.