



# Spokane Human Rights Commission

The May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting will provide for in person attendance. The meeting will be held in the City Council Briefing Room – Lower Level of City Hall, 808 Spokane Fall Blvd. Members of the public, Commission members, City staff, and presenters will still have the option to participate remotely via WebEx by clicking the “Meeting Link” on this page or by calling the number provided.

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 April Minutes Chair Kissler

## Standing Update(s):

5:45 – 5:55	Chair Report & Budget Update	Chair Kissler
5:55 – 6:30	Monaghan Statue Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike Piccolo, City Attorney</li> <li>• Ivan Urnovitz, US Navy League of Spokane</li> <li>• Kiana McKenna, PICA WA/Citizen’s Advisory Council</li> </ul>	Representatives
6:30 – 7:00	Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civic Impact</li> <li>• Outreach</li> <li>• Executive</li> </ul>	All

	<b>Adjournment</b>	
	1) Next Human Rights Commission meeting is scheduled for <b>June 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 5:30pm (PST)</b>	

**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](mailto: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

May 5, 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 April:

- Social Media (Facebook)
  - Created event for May meeting.
  - Posted the National Public Health Week Proclamation.
  - Posted about our booth at the EWU Diversity Fair (including stories).
  - Shared APIC Spokane's info about Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month.
  - Shared The Way to Justice's info about their free legal assistance justice night.
- Office of Civil Rights, Equity & Inclusion
  - Stakeholder group (community reps and SHRC exec committee) met to review OCREI Director job description and proposed a revised version for community input.
  - Worked with the stakeholder group to gather community feedback on OCREI Director job description.
  - Revised OCREI Director job description has been sent to City Administrator for consideration.
  - GSP OCREI workgroup meeting is scheduled for May 10.
  - Stakeholder group is meeting with the City Administrator on May 16.
- Assisting Commissioner Peck with required OPMA training and will continue onboarding training next.
- Staffed the SHRC booth from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. on April 21 for the EWU Diversity Festival. Vice Chair Harrison set up the booth.
- Helped Secretary Schreibman deliver the SHRC "Bending Toward Justice: An Overview of Historic and Contemporary Human Rights Issues in Washington" presentation during EWU's Diversity & Inclusion Week as a guest lecture. Secretary Schreibman put together an excellent presentation!
- Monaghan Statue
  - Received a media request regarding the statue to conduct an interview, however the reporter has not reached back out to reschedule the interview.
  - Met with the Executive Committee to discuss next steps regarding the Monaghan Statue process. Committee agreed to move forward with inviting Kiana McKenna, Ivan Urnovitz, and Mike Piccolo to present at the May 7 meeting to share their perspectives.

- Developed and provided an initial framework for future inquiries regarding historical landmarks to the Civic Impact Committee for their consideration and further development.
- Secured a free booth space for SHRC in the Spokane Pride Festival. Working with Vice Chair Harrison on parade logistics and staffing.
- Submitted Qualified Vendor Program Application for Spokane Riverfront Park, which was approved.
- Coordinating with Commissioner Peace and OPO Bart Logue on potential training for SHRC commissioners with Spokane Police Department.
- Sent National Public Health Week proclamation to Spokane Regional Health District.
- Attended a second Western States Center briefing on human/civil rights issues in our region.
- Received an inquiry regarding RCW 49.44.085 and whether it applies to state agency settlement agreements. Looped in Mr. Haynes, however I informed the individual that I do not have the information available to answer that question.
- Submitted a letter of support as SHRC Chair for Greater Spokane Progress, referencing our collaborative work on the Office of Civil Rights, Equity & Inclusion. (See attached.)

*Submitted by Lance Kissler, SHRC Chair*



April 24, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Over the past several years, I have worked with the Greater Spokane Progress group on advancing civil and human rights efforts in Spokane. My experience with their group members—especially Anne Martin in her directorship role with the group—has always been professional and positive. In fact, their collaborative efforts with the Spokane Human Rights Commission (SHRC) and the Office of Civil Rights Task Force that the SHRC created in December of 2019, has led to the Spokane City Council passing an ordinance and budget to establish an Office of Civil Rights, Equity & Inclusion (OCREI). The grassroots and community-based work brought forward by Greater Spokane Progress and their coalition partners, has provided the City a model by which to begin developing a fully-staffed and fully-funded OCREI.

Greater Spokane Progress leveraged the work already conducted by our Task Force, which included a benchmarking study of other cities with civil rights offices, to develop a “best practice” model based upon a city similar to our own. The model was presented to our Task Force for formal consideration and provided us with the opportunity to work alongside one another rather than in duplicity. This, along with their ability to activate community groups, created the perfect scenario for the Task Force and SHRC to formally accept the proposal and recommend it to City Council for consideration.

While I can only speak for myself as Chair—and not on behalf of the Commission or other commissioners—I do know that several commissioners are actively involved with the group and seemingly have positive experiences as well.

I am thankful for their efforts to make Spokane a welcoming and inclusive place for all. And while we were successful in our work together, there is still more to be done as the City continues to build out an OCREI, defining its functions, structure and resources. I believe Greater Spokane Progress will play an instrumental role in helping us ensure that an effective OCREI is established in Spokane. And no doubt, they will have other positive impacts upon the Spokane community as well.

Please accept this letter of support for Greater Spokane Progress, as chair of the Spokane Human Rights Commission.

Lance Kissler

Chair, Spokane Human Rights Commission

*[Note: This letter is written on behalf of the chair only. This is not a formal endorsement by the Commission as a whole.]*



**CITY OF SPOKANE  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

## **RESOLUTION**

**A resolution regarding historical landmarks and modern values.**

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 recently considered an issue raised by citizens regarding a statue in Spokane with racial slurs and other concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Commission voted in favor to support the removal of the statue--particularly the plaque; and

WHEREAS, the Commission discussed the need for the City to have a formal process for handling such instances in the future, including a values statement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission hereby requests city leadership to develop a formal process for receiving requests from concerned community members and evaluating them based upon an agreed upon set of values and criteria, along with procedures for removing or relocating the landmarks, while ensuring fairness and transparency for all. Members of the Commission and the Civil Rights Officer are willing to work with City staff to help develop the aforementioned protocols.

*Adopted by the Spokane Human Rights Commission on November 4th, 2021.*