

# **SPOKANE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**March 24, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

**City Hall, 808 W Spokane Falls Blvd. Lower level, City Council Briefing Center**

**Commissioners present: Barbara Ann Bonner, Skyler Oberst, Jamie SiJohn, Blaine Stum, Greg Terhaar, Lisa Rosier, Kitara Johnson**

**Commissioners absent: Ronald Toston**

**Also present: Rebekah Hollwedel, Gloria Ochoa, Shar Lichty, Brad Thompson; John Lemis; Mary Terhaar**

**Facilitator: Blaine Stum, chair**

**Minutes: Blaine Stum**

**Call to order by Comm. Stum, 5:30 pm**

- 1) Quorum established.**
- 2) Guests welcomed.**
- 3) Commissioner Stum presented Gregg with a certificate to honor the work he has done while on the Commission.**
- 4) Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed and approved without revision.**

## **Follow-up Business**

- 1) Priority Policies: Commissioner Stum gave an update to the Commission on the status of the HRC's four priority policies. He noted that the Council is going to vote on a resolution related to "ban the box" on April 13<sup>th</sup>. He also made the commission aware of work the Spokane Alliance has been doing on Paid Sick Leave and the upcoming establishment of a Gender and Race Pay Equity Task Force.**
- 2) Police Militarization Letter #2: Commissioner Stum said that Andrea had agreed to work on this response, but was not able to make this meeting and had the copies of the letter with her. Therefore, this item was deferred. Gloria Ochoa with the Hispanic Affairs Commission suggested that the Commission provide comment to the Spokane County Law and Justice Council on police militarization as it relates to the Spokane County Sheriff's Department.**
- 3) COP/DOJ Report Recommendations: Commissioner Stum let other members of the Commission know that the update from SPD on implementing the DOJ Recommendations was in their packet.**

**4) Letter to CHHS regarding LGBT Homelessness:** Commissioner Stum said that he was trying to set up a meeting with the CHHS Board before sending out any letters. He had yet to hear back from the Board at this point.

**5) Immigration Work Group:** Gloria Ochoa said she wanted to bring this item before the Human Rights Commission in anticipation of a potential ballot initiative that would repeal a recent ordinance related to immigration identification and policing (if passed). She would like to collaborate with the Human Rights Commission to educate the community on what our current immigration system is like, and share stories about undocumented immigrants living in our communities. Commissioner Rosier shared her experience as an immigrant, and said she is very interested to work on this issue. Commissioner Stum said he was very interested as well.

### **New Business**

**1) HRC Comments on Comp Plan Amendment:** Commissioner Stum suggested that the Human Rights Commission inquire about providing comments on a Comprehensive Plan amendment. Commission Johnson concurred. Other Commissioners agreed.

**2) Charter of Compassion/Spokane Gives:** Commissioner Oberst noted that he had been invited to be a part of Spokane Gives, and is working with the City to officially adopt the Charter of Compassion. He showed a brief video on the Charter. Commissioner Bonner noted that one thing was missing from the video: someone with disability. She indicated that she would like to see someone with a disability in a video should we do one for Spokane. Commissioner Oberst stated that the video was not associated with the campaign here, and that he would keep Commissioner Bonner's comments in mind as the campaign moves forward.

**3) Proposal Re: Education and Planning Committee:** Commissioner Oberst set up some meetings with John and one other person to convene the Education and Planning Committee. He said that after meeting he realized that it might be wise for the Commission to split the committee into two committees: one for education and one for planning (events, etc). Commissioners were supportive of the proposal, but decided to defer the item to the next agenda to give new Commissioners more time to look at the new bylaws and provide input.

**4) One and All Educational Campaign:** Commissioner Stum distributed draft materials for a campaign that he believes could be used by the Commission to help create more inclusive spaces and educate the community on non-discrimination law. Commissioner SiJohn noted that the Commissioner might want to consider word placement within the ampersand, as the word "sex" is featured quite prominently. Commissioner Stum said he kept the word "sex" in to refer to gender because that is what is in the law, and makes it less confusing (as gender identity is also included).

### **Member Updates/Announcements**

**1) Commissioner Bonner updated the Commission on the work she's been doing, and made the Commission aware of her desire to see a Disability Pride March on the same day as Unity in the Community. She noted that she wants this to be a march of the people and for the people. Other Commissioners were supportive of this idea. Rebekah suggested that Commissioner Bonner reach out to the organizers of Unity in the Community as a courtesy.**

**2) Commissioner Rosier updated the Commission on the work she is doing on Disability Rights, specifically as a member on the Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment.**

**Public Comment**

**N/A.**

**Adjourned at 6:45pm**

**Next SHRC meeting:**

**Tuesday, April 28 at City Hall, City Council Briefing Center 5:30-7:00.**