

# Spokane Human Rights Commission

July 25, 2017

Meeting Minutes: Meeting called to order at 5:30

## Attendance:

- Board Members Present: Nicole Bishop, Lance Kissler, John Lemus, Jennifer Thomas, Ashley Torres, Ronald Toston, Andrea Fallenstein, Aaron Reily.
- Board Not Members Present: Karen Stratton; Amina Fields
- Staff Members Present: Alicia Ayars; Mike Piccolo; John Lemus

**Minutes from the June 27, 2017 meeting approved unanimously.**

## Public Comment:

**President Nicole Bishop reminded the Board that there would be no campaigning during public comment.**

1. Mercy Aguilar spoke about the Mapping Project
  - a. The mission of the project is to provide an opportunity for the homeless population to speak their needs and concerns and to be heard by City Council. They will be gathering every Monday at 5pm outside the sliding doors of City Hall.
2. Marshall Smith read aloud the Mission Statement Purpose for the Spokane Human Rights Commission.
  - a. Commission needs to review the Mission Statement to include those people that attend school and who are employed in Spokane, but don't live in Spokane.
  - b. July 21<sup>st</sup> article comment in Spokesman Review was discussed aloud.
3. Yolonde Collins -Introduced herself- purpose of attending Spokane Human Rights Commission is to connect with people by reaching out to Committees.
4. John Olson- Spoke on Commissioner Torres's comment in the Spokesman Review and post on Facebook
5. Commissioner Ashely Torres- responded to public comment. Apologized to the Deputy and the Sherriff for the way she went about her comment and looks forward to working with the Police Department and setting forward a plan.
6. Commissioner Lemus spoke of Commissioner Torres's comment. Torres will go on a ride along with the Sherriff's office and meet with Sherriff Knezovich to discuss civil service requirements and improve diversity. Torres, will also meet with a Sheriff's Partner for Youth of Color and Minorities. Torres was warned that words matter and to be mindful of not using personal Facebook to discuss Human Rights issues.
7. Public Comment
  - a. Alicia Ayars with Neighborhood & Business Services, provided an update on the Spokane Human Rights Commission Budget.
  - b. Alicia Ayars is working with the legal department to draft up a policy and procedure for taking in Title 18 complaints.

## **Commission Briefing Session:**

- 1) OPMA Refresher Training - Mike Piccolo
  - State Law OPMA 2014/2015 receive training -All meetings properly announced. Best approach is to set a specific time, date, and location. Special meetings- notice done 24 hours in advance. All members receive notice, notify clerk's office, media outlets, post agenda, post to City Hall and meeting location.
  - Quorum- Once you have a quorum that is a meeting and that meeting needs to be properly noticed. No discussing commission business outside of the meeting avoid clustering together in public.
  - Special notice - taking evidence at a commission meeting for the subcommittee if you have a quorum
  - If you violate and attend an illegal meeting action is void if you are aware the meeting is illegal you could be subject to fines \$500 for first \$1,000 for the second. City Attorney's office will make the final decision.
  - Technology- telephone participation is permitted as well as skype. Emailing and text messages sent and received during meetings are open to public record.
  - All Commissioners need to have a City email address
  - Executive decision meetings vs. open meetings
  - Attorney General website and OPMA training good for 4 years
- 2) President Report-Nicole Bishop
  - Hire Ability Spokane Meeting- Initiative put together by Spokane County- Met with the coordinators from the County and Washington Inactive for Supportive Employment- Get connected with greater Spokane incorporated to see if the GSI can help root the Initiative along to increase the hiring numbers
  - City Suicide Means Prevention Project -Shawn Harshman City Planner in Neighborhood Services will help to and make a recommendation to the City.
  - Budget Broadening- Alicia Ayers and Nicole Bishop wanting to use the budget for different things. Example: Coffee with a Commissioner. Have a budget for events and community outreach.
  - Coffee with a Commissioner- Hopes to get started next month. Boots Bakery be the test pilot. The meeting will be held in the evening so community may attend. Awaiting permission from City Council to get budget approval
- 3) City Staff Report- Alicia Ayars
  - Budget Update: \$1705.55 bonding budget provided an update on the SHRC Budget.
  - Title 18 update- working with the legal department to draft up a policy and procedure for taking in Title 18 complaints. Hopefully have a demo in September. Complaints will only be for title 18.

## **Discussion Items:**

### **1) Courageous Conversations-**

- Hold one event per month. John to coordinate schedule with Commissioners who will host each Courageous Conversation.

## 2) Edu./Planning Subcommittee Election:

- Commissioner Thomas Lead of Edu./Planning Subcommittee will hold a community listening sessions to see what individuals would like them to work on.

## 3) Subcommittee Reports:

- **LGBTQIA-** Commissioner Torres provided an update on the work the LGBTQIA Subcommittee is doing in the community.
  - Planning a subcommittee meeting for August no date scheduled yet.
  - Did a survey and creating a report based on the survey results.
  - Adding information from this next subcommittee meeting to the upcoming work plan.
- **Human Trafficking- Commissioner Nicole Bishop**
  - Next meeting set for Wednesday August 2, 2017 at 6:00pm at the Spokane Public Library Downtown 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Main Board Room.
  - They will be taking input to endorse to the subcommittee. Would like to expand courageous conversation to expand to the topic of domestic sexual violence as a whole to be discussed at a later date.
- **Education and Planning**
  - Nicole did not have an update to provide to the Commission.
- **Rules and Procedures-** Commissioner Riley did not have an update to provide the Commission.
  - Host a meeting in August about Mission and Purpose Rules and Procedures of the Spokane Human Rights Committee take under advisement members working, living, and going to school in the City.
  - Courageous conversation regarding trauma reform care and human trafficking.
- **Complaint Subcommittee-** Commissioner Fields, not present. Title 18 covered items that would have been discussed.

## Public Comment (continued):

None

## New Business:

1. Fulcrum Dispute Resolution Clinic- Panera Bread in the Valley will donate 20% of proceeds to the cause. July 27, 2018 from 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
2. Ban Box and Family BBQ community meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August at Pastor Kendrick's Church 3909 W Rowan Ave, Spokane, WA.
3. Unity in the Community - need commissioner volunteers. Event is from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

## **Meeting Adjourned at 6:33 P.M.**

Next Human Rights Commission Meeting is scheduled for **August 22, 2017**