

Spokane Human Rights Commission

November 28, 2017

Meeting Minutes: Meeting called to order at 5:30

Attendance:

- Board Members Present: Nicole Bishop, Andrea Fallenstein, John Lemus, Jennifer Thomas, Ashley Torres, Karen Stratton, Amina Fields, Ronald Toston, Aaron Riley
- Staff Members Present: Alicia Ayars

Commission Briefing Session:

- 1) John Lemus made a motion to approve the October 24th, 2017 meeting minutes seconded by Commissioner Thomas. The minutes approved unanimously.
- 2) Public Comment:
 1. Elizabeth Boyd- Property Manager asked a question about Title 18 (18.01.030) in regards to HEN and the Rapid Re-Housing Program. How do you reach middle ground with the people that are in need? What reassurance does the Landlord have using the vouchers? There was a question about if Hen and Rapid Re-Housing were short term rental assistance?
 - Recommendation would be to do a short term lease.
 - Landlords don't have to rent to someone with a voucher that isn't within the rental criteria they offer.
 2. Autumn Reed- President of the Spokane area of the National Organization for Woman. Gave a sexual assault testimony - she is asking for help to get all the rape kits tested that are backlogged.
 3. Jason Prettyman-Spoke on the homeless issues in Spokane
- 3) City Staff Report & Budget update- Alicia Ayars
 - Approved 6 email boxes that have been set up
 - Remaining Balance \$342.28
 - Working with Ashley Torres to purchase Flags honoring Heritage Days. Specifically International Woman's Day, Black History Month, and Developmental Disability Awareness Month.
- 4) Terri Anderson from Washington State Tenants Union spoke about the Union and the history of the Union.
 - Founded in 1977
 - Service providing organization main function is tenant education.
 - Organize Tenants through HUD project based housing, State, Local, and Federal housing.
- 5) Criminal Justice Re-Entry - Ron Toston
 - Provided a PowerPoint Presentation on Criminal Justice re-entry
 - Get your Ballot on Lock- Vote for the people running for office
 - Discussed the problem with mass incarceration in the United States specifically re- entry back into the workplace and society.
 - Fair Chance Housing and Employment- "ban the box" which asks the question have you been convicted of a crime in the last 7 years?

6) 2018 Budget Update- Work Plan

- Submitted Goals and the 2018 Budget to the City Council and The Mayor's Office. The entire budget has been approved tentatively.
- Add immigrants and refugees as a topic within the 2018 work plan
- Employment Discrimination will fall under the Complaints Committee- John Lemus will handle taking over that portion in 2018
- Lack of affordable housing will be a topic for 2018

Work Plan Goals

2018 SHRC Election Vote was taken 6:45-6:49 P.M. (This is done each year)

Results

- 2018 Chair - Commissioner Ashley Torres
- Vice Chair - Commissioner Nicole Bishop
- Human Trafficking - Commissioner Nicole Bishop
- LGBTQIA - Commissioner Andrea Fallenstein
- Edu./Planning - Commissioner Jennifer Thomas assisted by Commissioner Ronald Toston
- Complaint - Commissioner John Lemus
- Rules/Procedure - Commissioner Aaron Riley

No meeting in December

Events

- **December 6th 7:00-9:00pm OutSpokane Cards against Humanity**
<https://outspokane.org/cards-against-humanity>
When: 1st Wednesday Monthly starting in September 2017
Where: nYne Bar & Bistro, 232 W Sprague Ave
- **December 13th 11:30-1pm at Northern Quest Casino- INBA Monthly Luncheon**

Meeting Adjourned at 7:24 P.M.

The Next Human Rights Commission Meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2017