

Spokane Human Rights Commission

April 24, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Nicole Bishop -Vice-chair called the meeting to order at 5:44 pm.

Public Comment:

None at this time.

Commission Briefing Session:

1) Roll Call:

- a) Board Members Present: Nicole Bishop; Andrea Fallenstein, Jennifer Thomas, Lance Kissler, Nicole Bishop, John Lemus.
- b) Board Members Absent: Ashley Lee, Ronald Toston, Aaron Riley.
- c) Staff Members Present: Councilmember Kate Burke.
- d) Quorum: Yes

Approve the March 27, 2018 Minutes: Commissioner Riley motioned to approve the minutes; Commissioner Fallenstein seconded. Minutes approved unanimously 7/0.

2) City Staff Report - Budget Update

- a. Alex Reynolds indicated there was no update at this time.

Discussion Items

1) Bylaws Discussion and Updates

This topic was tabled until Commissioner Riley was present.

2) Task Force vs Subcommittees

A suggestion was made to create four main subcommittees: The following committee names are broad to allow other related topics to be listed under these main topics:

- Community health and wellness
- Public Safety
- Diversity and Inclusivity
- Governance

By removing the subcommittee/name does not mean that we are no longer focusing on that issue or topic, but would be rolling it into a slightly broader subcommittee. The purpose is to then have a couple of commissioners on each of the sub-committees, and have more focus on the sub-committees.

One of the questions with this new organization would be, how do the smaller, less active sub-committees fit in with these broader subcommittees? There are more opportunities for crossover and collaboration with these broader sub-committees. Add more perspectives to the conversation. If there needs to be more a focus on a certain topic, that can be a focus at a particular meeting. The sub-committee can make the determination as to how these broader sub-committees work.

Commissioner Lemus requested that the "Complaint Sub-committee" be dissolved. The rational being, he has received many complaints from City staff and Council members. When Title 18 was passed, the Mayor made it clear that the Commissioners would not be the recipients of the complaints, nor were they to investigate them. These

complaints need to be tracked, and should be sent to Alex Reynolds to be tracked. Initially, we would have a dashboard together of complaints received - rather Title 18 or other...as to resource and referral; lumping data tracking under governance.

Commissioner Lemus indicated that the difference between a task force and a sub-committee as they relate to this Commission is that a task force deeply researches an issue and is made up of professionals and subject matter experts who, in turn, made a recommendation to the Mayor and Council. They also have an objective in sight with an end date. Sub-committees are made up of citizens who come to on-going meetings because they have an interest in a specific topic.

It was recommended that this language is put into the bylaws, and Commissioner Lemus and Kissler will work together on a recommendation for the next Commission meeting, along with the organizational structure.

Lemus motioned to table this discussion until next month; Kissler seconded; approved unanimously.

3) Gang Violence Task Force - Criminal Justice

Motion to table this discussion until next Commission meeting; Lemus seconded; approved unanimously.

Sub-committee Updates

Education and Planning - Commissioner Thomas

- 1) No Courageous Conversation yet this Quarter. These are issues that bring the community together to make suggestions on various topics, then we take these ideas to the City Council.
 - a. As Commissioners, we should get some traction on this. Bishop will send out an email to get topic suggestions. We can do a Facebook poll on Commissions page, and ask the public about what conversations they would like to have. For June.
 - b. Lance and I would like to meet for coffee with Commissioners on May 7th to discuss the Awards Banquet and branding for Commission. An open sub-committee meeting. Possibly at Saranac Commons at 5:30.
 - c. Could there be some synergy around working on policies that Council members are working on? That could bring in a larger group of people, such as a tenant bill of rights.
 - d. Sub-minimum wage; disability right Washington director of legal advocacy will be moving to Spokane so will be a great opportunity to engage them.
 - e. Pride Parade is coming up. We need two volunteers to hold the handles on the SHRC banner (2-4). And also a volunteer for the Pride flag. June 9th.
 - f. Councilmember Burke indicated Sen. Andy Billig suggested that we to Spokane Public Schools that the new middle school be named after Carla Pepperjack. Printed out false IDs for Jewish people during WW II. Vote for a letter of support for writing this letter. We could send a letter suggesting that they consider this name, so we could suggest other names later in the naming process. We need to learn the timeline of this project and the naming policy

for the school district. Motion to table until next month:
Burke/Fallenstein/unanimous.

- g. Facebook - I would like to make a motion that Kissler or myself be FB editors/administrators/moderators so we can brand and post. We follow the City's social media policies - John will forward to Commissioners.
- h. Sub-committees can post their events to the SHRC Facebook page.
- i. Kissler and I have been discussing the process of rebranding. We would like to have feedback. We may provide a survey.
- j. We may partner with the County task force to host an Awards banquet. Let's check our budget to make sure we can partner. Mayor's office appears to be supportive.

2) Anti-trafficking Update - Commissioner Bishop

- a. We spoke at City Council last month about adding an officer to address this issue.
- b. Next month is an Anti-trafficking meeting.
- c. Additional outreach - Thomas and Kissler - we spoke to someone at Spokane Talks to give a brief summary of what we presented at the Commission meeting.

3) Means Prevention - Commissioner Lemus

Commissioner Lemus is getting another meeting scheduled. Can we look into call-bridge for conferencing? Alex will look into it and determine if there is a cost involved.

Commissioner Fallenstein may attend the next meeting if the new members are not confirmed.

Motion to adjourn; Lemus/Fallenstien seconded; unanimous 8/0.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:34 P.M.

The Next Human Rights Commission Meeting is scheduled for **May 22, 2018**