

# Spokane Human Rights Commission

September 4, 2019

## Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:42

### Commission Briefing Session:

#### A. Public Comment

- a. Laura Renz with Northwest Service Dog Alliance. Concerned with dog at SHRC loose during public comment. Dogs have been loose during meetings and not been addressed and putting self and mobility dog at risk. Washington State and City of Spokane have rules regarding service dogs and concerned with lack of enforcement. Reminded commission that it is a misdemeanor to interfere with a service dog. Provided reading materials for commissioners. Chair Bishop requested Ms. Renz to speak at next meeting to educate commission regarding service dogs rules and laws.

#### B. Roll Call and Approve the June 5, 2019 Minutes:

- a. Commission Members Present: Nicole Bishop, John Lemus, Aaron Riley, Lance Kissler, Jac Archer, Earl Moore, Jennifer Thomas
- b. Commission Members Absent: Councilmember Burke and Ronald Toston (excused for medical leave)
- c. Staff Members Present: Melissa Morrison
- d. Quorum: Yes

**Approve the August 7th Minutes:** Motion to approve August 7<sup>th</sup> minutes by Commissioner Lemus and seconded by Commissioner Riley to approve August 7th minutes. Minutes passed.

### Discussion Items

#### 1) Homelessness Discussion

- a. Discussion rescheduled for later meeting as CHHS unable to present this evening. Chair Bishop proposed a special meeting to hold discussion.
- b. Commissioner Archer will schedule a Courageous Conversation with Terri Anderson to discuss just cause eviction. Commissioner Archer informed commission there may be complaints regarding landlord retaliation and asked what commission's capacity is to respond to complaints. Commissioner Lemus asked for staff report on Title 18 complaints received.
- c. Commissioner Archer regarding the Homeless Congress has stalled due to lack of capacity.

#### 2) Spokane Riverkeeper

- a. Jerry White and Margo Hill presented on clean water and environmental justice.
- b. Pollution to the Spokane River from PCBs (industrial chemicals). PCBs show up in storm runoff and waste water treatment plants. PCBs are bio accumulating in animals and poisoning orcas.
- c. PCBs accumulate in salmon and fish with high consumption rates by indigenous communities. This results in indigenous people not being to eat their traditional fish due to high level of toxins found in water and fish.

- d. There is a proposed rollback on water quality standards by federal government. Spokane Riverkeeper is asking State of Washington to increase water quality standards.
  - e. Margo Hill, Spokane Tribal member, gave history and background of the importance of salmon to the Spokane Tribe. Ms. Hill provided information on the work the Spokane Tribe and other local tribes have done to clean the Spokane River and other waterways. Ms. Hill asked the commissioners to support opposition to water quality rollbacks.
  - f. Jerry White presented a resolution to stop rollbacks of water quality protections to be reviewed by commissioners.
- 3) Salutation for No-Li Brewery**
- a. Commissioner Kissler motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Archer salutation as written and group of no more than 4 commissioners to present at No-Li Brewery at later date.
- 4) Housing Equality**
- a. Chair Bishop provided article in Spokesman Review regarding housing equality. Commissioner Riley discussed the Salvation Army's response to questions regarding treatment of LGBTQ+ individuals accessing their services and asking for a non-discrimination clause. Commissioner Archer asked for support of non-discrimination clauses in city contracts. Commissioner Lemus asked for amendment to Title 18 regarding non-discrimination to present to Councilmember Stratton.
- 5) Bylaws**
- a. Commissioner Riley moved and Commissioner Archer seconded to table bylaws to next meeting.
- 6) Data Tracking**
- a. Chair Bishop will send out Outlook invites to remind commissioners of Facebook responsibilities.
  - b. Chair Bishop will hold first Coffee with Commissioner on Wednesday, Oct 9<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 pm - 6 pm at Cedar Coffee. Commissioner Kissler asked that meetings be held in each district.
  - c. Chair Bishop is working to have a Know Your Rights town hall scheduled for October.
  - d. Commissioner Archer discussed educational events around white nationalism/white nationalist and other concerning local groups with Kate Bitz presenting.

The Next Human Rights Commission Meeting is scheduled for **October 2, 2019**