

Spokane Human Rights Commission

October 2, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:39

Commission Briefing Session:

1. Roll Call and Approve the September 26, 2019 Minutes:

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

2. Quorum: Yes

Approve the September 26th Minutes as amended to correct spelling of Renz: Motion to approve September 26th minutes by Commissioner Kissler and seconded by Commissioner Moore to approve September 26th minutes. Minutes passed.

Discussion Items

1) Service Dog Alliance

- a. Laura Renz with NW Service Dogs Alliance presenting on service dogs to Spokane Human Rights Commission. Organization founded to help educate and advocate in community for service dog teams.
- b. Ms. Renz gave background on importance of service dogs in the community and help they support their handlers. Dogs are trained to help their handlers and are well trained to perform tasks. Service dogs help handlers have independence.
- c. Ms. Renz discussed the tasks dogs are able to perform: alert handler to take migraine medicine by detecting when a migraine is coming on, help find a vehicle when handler is confused, help take handler to safety during anxiety attack, take handler to any location when named, help handler on stairs, and provide handler with mobility issues.
- d. Ms. Renz explained when service dogs are attacked they can lose their ability to be service dogs. Ms. Renz explained the service dogs are very well trained, are kept in very good condition and are not pets.
- e. Ms. Renz provided overview of federal and local laws and ordinances that govern service dogs.
- f. NW Service Dogs provided materials to commissioners to review regarding service dog regulations and training.
- g. NW Service Dogs advocated for stricter enforcement of existing service dog laws. Laura Renz gave ideas on how commissioners can help in the community.

2) Spokane Riverkeeper

- a. Jerry White from Spokane Riverkeeper attended meeting regarding Spokane Riverkeeper resolution. Mr. White thanked the commissioners for their time. Mr. White wanted to highlight the intersection between the pollution of our state's water and environmental justice.
- b. Commissioners reviewed resolution and had no discussion.
- c. Lemus motion to pass and Riley seconded to pass. Motioned denied for discussion. Commissioner Kissler made grammatical correction to seconder whereas clause to strike the word "the". Chair Bishop made correction to adoption date to October 2, 2019. Commissioner Kissler grammatical changes to 16th, 18th and 19th whereas clauses.

- d. Commissioner Lemus made motion to approve resolution as modified and Commissioner Riley seconded. Motion passed with no objection.
 - e. Mr. White thanked the commissioner for passing the resolution and will enter the resolution into the federal record during the comment period.
- 3) Homelessness Recap
- a. Chair Bishop gave recap of special meeting held in September regarding status of new shelter. Chair Bishop explained CHHS is willing to provide community education and interested in partnering with SHRC for Courageous Conversations.
 - b. Commissioners commended the work CHHS is doing in community education and dedication to best practice and planning staff is doing.
- 4) Bylaws
- a. Commissioner Lemus made motion to approve bylaws as amended. Commissioner Moore second motion. Bylaws passed unanimously.
- 5) Upcoming Events
- a. 10/8 5:30 pm – 7 pm – Countering White Nationalism 101 with Kate Bitz at West Central Community Center
 - b. 10/9 4:30 pm – 6 pm – Coffee with a Commissioner with Chair Bishop, Commissioner Moore and Commissioner Lemus will attend.
 - c. 10/16 – Courageous Conversation with Commissioner Archer and Terri Anderson from Tenants Union regarding Just Cause Eviction
 - d. Commissioner Kissler updated commissioner that Eastern Washington University has made October Pride Month on campus. Commissioner Kissler recommended Ally Training for commissioners.
 - e. Commissioner Lemus gave information Partners for Work event that is a partnership between City of Spokane and Rotary 21. Commissioner Lemus spoke to HR Director Chris Cavanaugh who reported the city's supported employment program is going well.
- 6) Chair Bishop updated group that she is starting a MPA program at Eastern Washington University and will not be seeking reappointment. Chair Bishop announced this will be her last meeting and Commissioner Kissler will become chair. Chair Bishop will still serve as a friend of the commission.

The Next Human Rights Commission Meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2019. Meeting adjourned at: 6:55 pm