

Spokane Human Rights Commission

March 4, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:35

Public Comment

1. Tenants Union – ask SHRC to pass resolution to support Tenant Protections ordinance. Most important ordinance to support is just cause ordinance. Terri Anderson told commissioners of 6-unit apartment in West Central where all tenants were served with 20-day notice. Terri Anderson explained tenants of color are disproportionately impacted without tenant protections.
2. Dave from Tenants Union expressed support for tenant protections ordinance. Seattle has had tenants' protections for 40 years.
3. John Alder supports tenant protections with specific emphasis on seniors who are renting. Many seniors and people with disabilities have many medical needs and medications.
4. Anne Martin from Greater Spokane Progress spoke in support of housing justice initiatives, including tenant protections.

Commission Briefing Session:

1. Roll Call and Approve the December 4, 2019 Minutes:
 - a. Commission Members Present: Lance Kissler, Earl Moore, Hayley Harrison, John Lemus, Aaron Riley
 - b. Commission Members Absent: Councilmember Kate Burke, Jac Archer
 - c. Staff Members Present: Melissa Morrison, Mark Carlos (representing Council Member Betsy Wilkerson, took over note taking at 6:48pm)
2. Quorum: Yes
 - a. Dec minutes – approved
 - b. Feb minutes – approved with corrections of date and time Vice Chair Lemus attend

Discussion Items

1. SHRC Commissioner Candidates
 - a. Anwar Peace is applying for open commission seat. Mr. Peace is a long time police accountability community activist.
 - b. Alex Knox is applying for open commission seat. Mr. Knox is a LGBT healthcare provider in Spokane and involved in many community organizations. Mr. Knox would help create an Office of Civil Rights to enforce Spokane's discrimination protections.
2. COVID-19 and anti-Asian discrimination
 - a. APIC members spoke about the fear of COVID-19 in the community resulting to discrimination in community. Community has experienced micro-aggressions and assaults. Gave information on background on COVID-19, prevention tips and community resources for anti-stigma. Requested commission recommend city utilize anti-stigma resources in city communication. Ensure information is disseminated appropriately to immigrant communities with a plan to reach out to communities of color, including language access. Chair Kissler to post statement regarding and request Mayor and City Council to ensure information is provided to all communities. Commissioner Riley

provided information from the City of Spokane's website regarding COVID-19 but noted the website did not address any anti-stigma or discrimination concerns. Chair Kissler to craft a statement to coordinate with SRHD.

3. Resignations of Commissioners
 - a. Commissioner Toston and Commissioner Thomas have both submitted resignation from Spokane Human Rights Commission.
4. HRC Commissioner Candidate
 - a. Lorna Hernandez-Jarvis unable to attend tonight's meeting and will meet with Chair and Vice Chair
5. Workplan Review and Budget Update
 - a. Budget Update
 - i. Chair Kissler provided update on current budget status. Note cards and business cards 2020 budget rather than 2019 budget.
 - b. Branding and Logo Items
 - i. Commissioner Harrison shared table drape and banner, with misspelling. New banners and drape will need to be reordered to misspelling of commission. Chair Kissler recommends replacing table drape (approx. \$125) now and reevaluate replacing banners (approx. \$95 each) till end of the year. Chair Lemus (second by Commissioner Harrison) made motion to replace table drape. Motion passed unanimously.
 - c. Human Rights Awards
 - i. Commissioner Harrison coordinated attendance for Human Rights Awards meetings.
 - d. OCR Exploratory Task Force
 - i. Reoccurring monthly meeting on first Monday of month and reoccurring remote check in meeting on third Wednesday of month
 - ii. Commission representatives are Chair Kissler, Vice Chair Lemus and Commissioner Archer
 - iii. Chair Kissler reported good momentum for task force
 - e. Upcoming events
 - i. St. Patrick Day parade – 3/14 at noon – Commissioner Harrison will submit application
 - ii. Considering Matthew Shepard Concert - Chair Kissler will coordinate with event on commissioners' attendance and coordinate table
 - iii. INW Fair Housing Conference
 - f. Bylaws
 - i. Expectations of Commissioners (Kissler)
 1. Section VIII Quorum is listed as 5 numbers, as opposed to simple majority as a Quorum is needed to take action.
 - a. (Vice Chair Lemus) "We are restricted by Public Meetings Act... we need to send a letter to Mr. Ormsby et. al... since we have so many (commissioner) seats open... to make sure it is all kosher"
 - b. Proposed change: (8.1) A simple majority (more than 50%) of the currently filled Commissioner positions of the City SHRC shall constitute a quorum and to conduct meetings and for transaction of business. A simple majority of that quorum is necessary to take action (act)

- i. (9.1) grammatical error substitute “are” for “is”
- ii. (19.3) grammatical error substitute “takes action” to “acts”
- iii. (19.5) Add language to change terms to a calendar year basis.
- iv. (20.6) Debate over time required, allowing flexibility of scheduling conflicts over attendance of community meetings.
- v. (20.1) Grammatical error substituting “they” to “may” added language relating to unexcused absences: “that have not been excused (at the discretion of the Chair or Vice Chair)”
 - 1. Vice Chair made a motion to move forward with changes as amended, Commissioner Moore seconded. Passed unanimously.

ii. Adjustment of Terms (Kissler/Riley)

g. Ageism (Kissler) (moved to next meeting)

h. Formally adopt 2020 workplan & publish to website (Kissler) (moved to next meeting)

The Next Human Rights Commission Meeting scheduled April 1, 2020. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.