

# Spokane Human Rights Commission

May 6, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:41

## Public Comment

### Commission Briefing Session:

1. Roll Call and Approve the March 4, 2020 Minutes:
  - a. Commission Members Present: Lance Kissler, Earl Moore, Hayley Harrison, John Lemus, Aaron Riley
  - b. Commission Members Absent: Councilmember Betsy Wilkerson
  - c. Staff Members Present: Melissa Morrison, Mark Carlos (representing Council Member Betsy Wilkerson)
2. Quorum: Yes
  - a. March 4<sup>th</sup> minutes approved

### Discussion Items

1. SHRC Commissioner Candidates
  - a. Lorna Hernandez-Jarvis is applying to be a SHRC commissioner. Dr. Hernandez-Jarvis is the Chief Diversity Officer at Whitworth. Dr. Hernandez-Jarvis is interested in effectively serving the community. Dr. Hernandez-Jarvis is a board member for the College Success Foundation, which provides access and equity to students in higher education.
2. Budget update
  - a. Received confirmation that commissioners can contribute to replace banners
3. Homeless shelter operations during pandemic
  - a. Tim Sigler provided background and update on Spokane warming centers
    - i. Mr. Sigler provided distinction between warming centers and Healthy Shelter during COVID-19 Response. Two weeks ago, city opened RFP for shelter response and isolation programs for COVID response.
    - ii. Mr. Sigler reported there is a legal investigation for one non-profit and their application is being held.
    - iii. Mr. Sigler reported there are shelter applications that will be ready to move forward and will need ECO/Health District approval
    - iv. Mr. Sigler reported CHHS is requesting a one week extension for library closure. CHHS toured the county community services building as a possible site for single adult shelter.
    - v. The main identified need is space for 46 single adults for next 90 days.
    - vi. Chair Lemus recommended a new contractor orientation to help onboard providers to prevent contract confusion.
    - vii. Chair Archer asked about shelter options for the queer community. Mr. Sigler reported the city only funds low barrier shelter.
    - viii. Mr. Sigler reported the city has not hired an Equity/Housing policy position but there is support for position. Mr. Sigler reported he refers all complaints to state human rights commission but unable to address at local level.

4. Workplan update
5. Human Rights Awards update
  - a. Commissioner Harrison reported Human Rights Awards group has discussed building branding of awards over social media. Awards will likely be postponed to past Fall 2020.
6. OCR Exploratory Task Force update
  - a. Next meeting will be mid-May. Chair Kissler to discuss possible options with Tim Sigler.
7. North Idaho incident
  - a. Koonteni and Spokane County Human Rights Task Force addressing incident. Possible opportunity for charitable contribution to help repair memorial.
8. Statement re: housing during COVID-19 pandemic
  - a. Request to issue statement in support of rental assistance from Tenant's Union. Chair Kissler to draft statement in support for individuals who need housing and individuals who provide housing. Chair Lemus recommended reaching out to county commissioners regarding COVID spending in Spokane. Chair Moore recommended asking commissioners for clarification of how money can be spent. Chair Kissler and Commissioner Archer to draft letter in support of rental assistance based on parameters discussed.
9. Translating SHRC materials into Asian languages
  - a. APIC brought to attention the barrier of access to website and materials due to lack of translation. Translating materials would be charged to commission's budget. Cost would range from \$560 - \$1,000 for website and documents.
  - b. Commissioner Archer proposed providing translation to most spoken Asian language by APIC in using this year's budget. Chair Kissler to proceed with translation of materials using Washington DES approved vendors.

The Next Human Rights Commission Meeting scheduled June 3, 2020. Meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.