



City of Portland, Oregon
Kyle Busse, Chair
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Meeting Minutes

Date: August 7, 2013 **Time:** 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Location:** 421 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 500 Portland, OR
Commission Attendees: Kyle Busse, Allan Lazo, Deyalo Bennette, Aimee Samara, Linda McKim-Bell, Mayra Arreola, Sam Sachs, Moloy Good, Abdul Majidi, Emanuel Price
Staff Attendees: Jeff Selby, Sarah Milliron

Approval of Agenda and Minutes / Welcome and Gathering

- Chair Kyle Busse called the meeting to order at 4:04.
- ***MOTION: AIMEE SAMARA SECOND: ALLAN LAZO MOTION PASSED***
 - Approve Proposed Agenda as amended by Kyle Busse
- ***MOTION: AIMEE SAMARA SECOND: MOLOY GOOD MOTION PASSED***
 - Approve meeting minutes from July 10, 2013
- Attendees and commissioners introduced themselves.

Welcome New Commissioners

- Four new commissioners were confirmed: Linda McKim-Bell, Emanuel Price, Sam Sachs, and Sonji Young. Linda, Emanuel, and Sam introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their prior work and what drew them to the Human Rights Commission (HRC).
- An introduction of task forces and committees under the HRC was given.
 - Allan introduced the Community Police Relations Committee, explaining their mission is to increase the relationship between police and the community. They meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month. They are not currently accepting new committee members but have room on sub-committees.
 - Mayra introduced the Community Discovery Committee, explaining its purpose is community engagement to gather information on the gaps existing in the community to better inform the efforts of the HRC. The committee is closed to new members until January.
 - Kyle introduced the Policy Committee which was created to advance HRC policy efforts. They meet once a month and are open to new members.
 - Moloy introduced the Nominating Committee explaining their purpose is to evaluate and do outreach about current or upcoming vacancies. They conduct interviews, evaluate applicants and make recommendations to the HRC.

- Kyle spoke about the Human Trafficking Task Force explaining their mission to educate and advocate for at risk communities. They meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month and are open to new membership.
- Moloy introduced the Housing Task Force which addresses housing inequities advocating for issues surrounding Section 8 boundaries and inclusionary zoning practices. The committee is open to new members.

Emerging Issues

- Deyalo discussed the re-appointment process.
 - The Class of 2013 will need to be re-appointed by Council by September 15 requiring the commissioners to fill out applications and provide a short paragraph to Jeff Selby on why they feel they should be re-appointed. HRC will vote on the re-appointments and subsequently Council will vote to confirm.
 - Kyle said the HRC can vote in September or October. Any questions can be sent to Jeff.
- Sweeping of the homeless
 - Issues surrounding the Mayor asking police to remove homeless from the sidewalks surrounding City Hall and other high utilized areas were addressed by the HRC as well as by Chad Stover, Policy Analyst from the Mayor's Office. The concern raised by Allan is that the City is now removing people from sidewalks not adjacent to City Hall. The Mayor is firm that this is a safety issue, not a homeless issue.
 - A large concern is the language being used equating homelessness to lawlessness or public safety. Jeff said that OEHR issued a statement regarding the language used and Mayor Hales echoed that but cited police complaints as the reason for the sweeps. Chad said there were 113 complaints regarding people outside of City Hall, including harassment, public indecency and violence.
 - Abdul raised concerns and wanted clarification as to whether the people outside of City Hall were indeed homeless or protesting as this can be an issue of freedom of speech. Sam reiterated that all are not homeless; there are occupiers and protesters as well.
 - Chad stressed that the solution to sidewalk management is not singular and needs to be collaborative. Abdul asked if there was to be a hearing on the issue; Chad said yes and left his business cards for people to follow up with him with questions.
 - Michael Moore of Sisters of the Road testified on his concerns regarding the sweeping of the homeless. He noted that being homeless is treated as a crime due to city ordinances such as the no camping law. He urged dialogue and recommended that the City needs to take more authority on the negativity and violence towards the homeless. He believes the City's ethos needs to be changed regarding homelessness. He used Right 2 Dream 2 as an example of how treating people with respect allows for most to step up and respect others.
 - Aimee sees the community forums taking it on as a community inquiry. Abdul reiterated the need for a dialogue, and it is necessary to speak with Police as well as visit the sites in order to make HRC presence known.

- Moloy asked about a timeline for the public statement. Kyle said it needed to happen right away and he would partner with Allan on it. If anyone would like to add their input, please contact Kyle or Allan. Jeff will disseminate.

Action Items

- VOZ endorsement update
 - The HRC will be advocating on behalf of VOZ. A letter has been sent to the Mayor.
- Conflict Free Minerals Resolution
 - ***MOTION: KYLE SECOND: ABDUL MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED
 - Amended: Allow the Executive Committee to advocate conflict free resolutions to City Council on behalf of the HRC
 - Kyle also voted as a proxy for John Verssue on the issue.
- “Bring Our War Dollars Home” Endorsement
 - ***MOTION: DEYALO SECOND: AIMEE MOTION PASSED
 - The Executive Committee will endorse and advocate the final draft when it is received.
 - Linda abstained.

HRC Communications and Actions Process Recommendations

- Draft
 - Hope to get a vote at the next meeting with Bylaws.
 - Committee will meet to finalize the draft before the next meeting.

Bylaws

- Allan presented a handout of the edited Bylaws reflecting substantive changes. He said this document was the second highest order of HRC guidance. If further changes need to be made they will be done in Phase 2 of the draft with recommendations sent to Allan. The final vote will be in September.
 - Moloy had a clarifying question regarding non-voting members. Allan said the HRC has the authority to make decisions unless the committee allows others to do so. It applies to the CPRC as well.
 - Aimee asked for clarity regarding unexcused absences.
 - Deyalo had concerns about including the word bigotry in the HRC purpose as it could become a free speech issue.
 - Allan reiterated that clarifying changes can be made in Phase 2 of the draft process.

CDC Update

- Mayra explained that the notes from the Roundtable event were being compiled and will be released to attendees in September. Jeff has updated the guests on when the report will be available.
- Two meetings have been scheduled to discuss community forums. Deyalo will send out emails with further information. The first forum will be at the end of October and Aimee would like HRC members working on thematic issues to attend.

HRC Workplan

- Due to time constraints Kyle will email the updated workplan and hand it out at the next meeting.

HRC Human Rights Awards

- The committee decided that the event would be held on the 5th with NW Natural providing the space and food. Jeff will contact NW Natural and Kyle and Allan will volunteer for the event.

Public Comment:

- Mike Tabor re-iterated Michael Moore's presentation regarding the criminalization of the homeless. He said that criminal activity is a constant presence and it is easier to place the blame on the homeless population. He is concerned with the definitions of high access sidewalks as it is being used in a broader sense to include large areas of space. He also had comments regarding the HRC website including the lack of Facebook and Twitter presence as well as links to the videos he records of the meetings. He mentioned that meeting agendas are removed from the website after the meetings and suggested they are left up longer.
- Lavaun Heaster spoke on the language surrounding people with disabilities. Using the word "handicapped" is not correct and is considered offensive.

Announcements

- The March on Washington Commemoration is August 24th and volunteers are needed.
- Aimee had a liaison meeting with Commissioner Fritz and they have decided to meet bi-monthly and in-between if needed.
- Food was provided by Hush Hush / Portland Pedal Power.