



*Allan Lazo, Chair
Kyle Busse, Vice-Chair*

Human Rights Commission Meeting Notes

Date: January 4, 2012

Time: 4:00-6:30 PM

Location: 5315 N Vancouver, Portland OR 97213

Attendees

Commissioners Present: Abdul Majidi, Allan Lazo, Ashley Horne, Christine Rontal, Damon Isiah Turner, Donita Fry, Donna Maxey, Emily Gottfried, Hector Lopez, Kyle Busse, Moley Good, Stephen Manning

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff: Sara Hussein (Commissioner Fritz's Office)

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Lazo called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm.

Allan welcomed everyone and asked Commissioners to introduce themselves. He read the HRC's mission and Article 3 of the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights:

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Approval of Agenda and December 7th Minutes

Allan requested to add an update on the Charter Review Commission to the agenda after the budget discussion.

MOTION: Allan moved, and Donita seconded, to accept the agenda as amended.

ACTION: With 11 in favor (Lazo, Horne, Rontal, Turner, Fry, Maxey, Gottfried, Lopez, Busse, Good, Manning), the motion *passed*.

MOTION: Christine moved, and Kyle seconded, to accept the December 7th minutes.

ACTION: With 10 in favor (Lazo, Horne, Rontal, Turner, Fry, Maxey, Gottfried, Lopez, Busse, Good), and 1 abstentions (Manning) the motion *passed*.

Public Comment

None

HRC Short Term Work Plan

a. Race Talks

Race Talks will plan to have the Occupy Portland discussion in March instead of February. Donna is hoping to put together a panel of speakers and will focus the discussion on people of color and Occupy. The HRC is sponsoring January's Race Talks, which is on Native American Heritage. Richard Twisst and Katherine Tom will be speakers.

The February Race Talks is entitled "Race: The Power of an Illusion". There will be a screening of the film, "RACE: The Power of an Illusion" followed by a presentation by Dr. James Mason, Executive Director of Culturally Competent Care at Providence Health & Services.

Race Talks are held the second Tuesday of each month from 7-9 pm at the McMenamin's Kennedy School and are coordinated by Donna Maxey.

b. Human Trafficking

Kyle met with Diane Schwartz Sykes, head of the Oregon Department of Justice's Civil Rights program, and Detective Keith Bickford, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and Director of the Oregon Human Trafficking Task Force. Kyle asked them what the HRC can do to assist them in their efforts against human trafficking.

There are two major categories of trafficking: child sex trafficking and trafficking in immigrant communities, with the latter not receiving as many resources. Keith and Diane suggested that the HRC focuses on trafficking in immigrant communities. The HRC can form a task force with other stakeholders, social service agencies and other community organizations. There is a major trust gap between government and trafficking victims, which is something that the HRC can help overcome.

Stephen noted that Oregon has a high rate of human trafficking due to its location on the I-5 corridor and that there isn't much organization within the victim community here in Oregon. Abdul added that he has met with Detective Bickford and PPB Office Natasha Haunsperger on this subject and he learned that victims would not want to have conversations if law enforcement is at the table. Additionally, victims would be much less likely to attend a forum on trafficking because they wouldn't want to be publicly known as victims.

Discussion and ideas included:

- Have this as a topic at a Race Talks

- Form a Coalition of Hate Crimes type of group to create a safe space to have conversations with victims, involving law enforcement
- Partner with Washington County's HRC
- Have a model similar to when the HRC tackled the ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) issue, which would include gathering community and stakeholders to learn human trafficking issues, while convening a strategic task force with law enforcement
- Decide who on HRC wants to be involved and form a subcommittee/task force

MOTION: Stephen moved, and Donita seconded, to form an ad-hoc committee to work on human trafficking and bring ideas from those meetings back to the HRC.

ACTION: With 12 in favor (Lazo, Horne, Rontal, Turner, Fry, Majidi, Maxey, Gottfried, Lopez, Busse, Good, Manning), the motion *passed*.

Questions were raised by some HRC members as to how the HRC was going to accomplish this work without any staff. Someone noted that the HRC has had a staff person dedicated to them from Commissioner Fritz's office since March 2011. Other HRC members decided that they need to take initiative with their work and that current staffing is sufficient.

c. Strategic Plan RFP

Only two proposals were submitted, so the deadline was extended until January 20th, 2012. Allan will forward information to the HRC on how to access the RFP for people to send out to their contacts.

Committee and Liaison Updates

a. Charter Review Commission (CRC)

The CRC has been told by Council that their work will end March 1st. The HRC needs to decide on which language it wants to move forward, if any. There might be another CRC formed in 2013 and Allan thinks it might be beneficial to wait until then since this HRC was only charged to make housekeeping changes. Tricia informed Kyle that there is not much support on the CRC for HRC's ask. There is a CRC meeting on January 23rd and HRC needs to be represented at this meeting. The CRC will have two public forums between now and March and the HRC will need to recruit community members to help state the case of the HRC.

Discussion included:

- Since HRC is so close, language should just be decided on tonight
- More beneficial to have this on the ballot during an election year, such as this year
- HRC will have to be prepared to answer the question of why they think they should be able to hire and fire staff and control funding

MOTION: Donna moved, and Christine seconded, to go to the Charter Review Commission with recommended language to include the HRC into the City Charter.

ACTION: With 11 in favor (Horne, Rontal, Turner, Fry, Majidi, Maxey, Gottfried, Lopez, Busse, Good, Manning), and 1 against (Lazo) the motion *passed*.

The three language options for the HRC to bring forward state briefly that:

1. No language regarding the Director
2. Director Included; HRC Control Over Director Appointment and Removal
3. Director Included; Director Reports to Mayor/City Council

(See pages 5-6 of the minutes for complete language options)

MOTION: Moloy moved, and Donita seconded, to take option #3 to the Charter Review Commission.

ACTION: With 8 in favor (Majidi, Maxey, Horne, Lopez, Good, Busse, Fry, Rontal), 3 against (Manning, Gottfried, Lazo) and 1 abstention (Turner), the motion *passed*.

Allan will inform Tricia of the HRC's decision and Moloy and Christine offered to help prepare for the CRC's January 23rd meeting.

b. Nominating Committee

Six applications were received; five applicants were interviewed and three were selected. The nominees are:

- Deyalo Bennett (Term ending October 2012)
- Mayra Arreola (Term ending October 2014)
- Aimee Krouskop (Term ending October 2014)

MOTION: Moloy moved, and Stephen seconded, to bring Deyalo Bennett, Mayra Arreola, and Aimee Krouskop to Council for approval to join the HRC.

ACTION: With 12 in favor (Lazo, Horne, Rontal, Turner, Fry, Majidi, Maxey, Gottfried, Lopez, Busse, Good, Manning), the motion *passed*.

c. Community and Police Relations Committee (CPRC)

The CPRC would like approval of three new community members: Maria Lisa Johnson, Tonya Dickens, and James Dunphy.

MOTION: Hector moved, and Moloy seconded, to accept Maria Lisa Johnson, Tonya Dickens, and James Dunphy to the CPRC.

ACTION: With 12 in favor (Lazo, Horne, Rontal, Turner, Fry, Majidi, Maxey, Gottfried, Lopez, Busse, Good, Manning), the motion *passed*.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Draft HRC Charter Language

(Option 1: No Language Regarding the Director)

The City of Portland shall provide ongoing staffing and funding for the City of Portland Human Rights Commission and its programs and committees including, but not limited to, its community and police relations committee. The by-laws of the Human Rights Commission shall govern, among other matters, the composition of the Commission and its committees, election of officers, Commission membership rules and requirements, the length of commissioner terms, and the procedure for nominating and/or removing commissioners. The Mayor or City Council may request that the Human Rights Commission address specific human rights issues in the City of Portland, but the work and recommendations of the Human Rights Commission shall not be limited to those specific requests. The Human Rights Commission shall independently address issues of human rights and equal justice, at its discretion, consistent with its mission and bylaws. Upon request of the City Council, and no less than twice per year, the Human Rights Commission shall address, and provide written reports to, the City Council regarding the Commission's work, findings and recommendations.

(Option 2: Director Included; HRC Control over Director Appointment and Removal)

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Director: The City of Portland Human Rights Commission shall be administered by a Director to be appointed by the Mayor in consultation with the Human Rights Commission and confirmed by majority vote of both City Council and the Human Rights Commission. Removing the Director requires a majority vote of both City Council and the Human Rights Commission. The compensation to be paid to the Director shall be determined by the City Council as part of the City of Portland's General Compensation Plan and in consultation with the Human Rights Commission.

(Option 3: Director Included; Director Reports to Mayor/City Council)

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Director: The City of Portland Human Rights Commission shall be administered by a Director to be appointed by the Mayor after consideration of the recommendation of the Human Rights Commission. The Director shall serve at will and shall report to a supervisor to be determined by the Mayor. The Director may be removed by the Council upon request of the Mayor, after consideration of the recommendation of the Human Rights Commission. The compensation to be paid to the Director shall be determined by the City Council as part of the City of Portland's General Compensation Plan and in consultation with the Human Rights Commission.