



City of Portland, Oregon  
Kyle Busse, Chair  
421 SW 6th Avenue Suite 500 · Portland, OR 97204  
503.823.2173 · [www.portlandoregon.gov/oehr/hrc](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/oehr/hrc)

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## Meeting Minutes

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**Date:** September 4, 2013 **Time:** 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** 421 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 500 Portland, OR

**Commission Attendees:** Kyle Busse, Donita Fry, Allan Lazo, Damon Isiah Turner, Deyalo Bennette, Aimee Samara, Linda McKim-Bell, Mayra Arreola, Moloy Good, John Verssue, Sonji Young

**Staff Attendee:** Jeff Selby

### Approval of Minutes and Agenda / Welcome and Gathering

- Chair Kyle Busse called the meeting to order at 4:04.
- MOTION BY AIMEE SAMARA: Approve meeting minutes as amended by Aimee Samara.  
SECOND: ALLAN LAZO  
MOTION PASSED (Donita Fry abstained)
- MOTION BY ALLAN LAZO: Approve meeting agenda.  
SECOND: SONJI YOUNG  
MOTION PASSED
- Attendees and commissioners introduced themselves.

### Community Discovery Committee Report (CDC)

- Mayra Arreola said the CDC is finalizing the Community Roundtable report and recommendations will be sent to the HRC Executive Committee for review and input. The report will then be formatted and sent to the roundtable participants and community at large.
- The CDC will meet on Friday, September 6 to finalize two public meetings that are planned for September 10th and 13th. The purpose of the meetings is to discuss community forums.

### Presentation by Sisters of the Road

- Michael Moore presented the Homeless Bill of Rights campaign that Sisters of the Road is working on with Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP). The group wants to examine the root causes of homelessness and to change the criminalization narrative about homelessness.
- Michael invited the HRC to participate in advocacy media projects and encouraged the commission to keep the discussion going about homelessness.
- Art Rios discussed the National Homeless People's Civil Rights Campaign Survey.
- The presentation and survey results are attached.

### **Executive Officer Nominations for 2013 - 2014**

- Kyle announced that nominations for Chair and Vice Chair are open until the next HRC Meeting (October 2, 2013), at which time the commission will vote for the two positions.
- Deyalo Bennette nominated Sonji Young and Mayra Arreola for Vice Chair.
- Damon Isiah Turner nominated Sonji Young for Chair.
- Kyle nominated John Verssue for Chair.
- Aimee nominated Moloy Good for Chair.

### **Bylaws Adoption (attached)**

- MOTION BY MOLOY GOOD: Adopt bylaws as presented.  
SECOND: AIMEE SAMARA  
DISCUSSION: Allan Lazo stated that Bylaws changes are always open for discussion—this is not the end of the opportunities for requesting changes, it's just this round of changes.  
MOTION PASSED (Damon Isiah Turner abstained)

### **Formation of Communications Committee**

- Kyle announced that the Executive Committee recommends establishing a new communications committee.
- MOTION BY SONJI YOUNG: Create an ongoing Communications Committee of the Human Rights Commission.  
SECOND: DEYALO BENNETTE  
DISCUSSION: Kyle stated that as HRC Chair, he will sit on the Committee, but the new HRC Chair could choose not to if he or she wishes.  
MOTION PASSED
- John Verssue volunteered to Chair the Communications Committee and Sonji volunteered to serve on the Committee.

### **Emily G. Gottfried Human Rights Awards**

- The awards luncheon will take place at NW Natural on December 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Nominations will be open through September 25<sup>th</sup>. The Committee (Deyalo, Kyle, Allan, and Jeff) will select finalists and present to HRC for final decisions
- The Committee is looking for guest speaker recommendations.

### **Committee Updates**

- Liaison Committee
  - Aimee met with Commissioner Fritz and Dora Perry, and shared HRC Committee work. Commissioner Fritz said that part of the original intent of moving the HRC within a city bureau (the OEHR) was to provide the HRC with bureau staff support. The notion was that in addition to the staff person specifically hired to support HRC, that all staff from within OEHR, as well as from other bureaus would be available to support HRC on a task by task basis, according to the information or access those staff persons hold.

Commissioner Fritz also discussed inviting two members of the Human Trafficking Task Force to participate in a group that would focus on how to direct a one-time fund request to address the issue of human trafficking in the Portland area.

- John met with Stacy Brewster from Commissioner Saltzman's office and discussed expectations and process moving forward.
- Kyle and Ashley met with Martha Pellegrino and discussed how to communicate with the Government Relations Office as the legislative agenda moves forward. Martha recommended that HRC work with Judith Mowry from OEHR on policy issues. Kyle also met with Josh Alpert from the Mayor's Office and said he communicated with Josh about HRC's support of creating a permanent space for VOZ.
- Housing Rights Task Force (HRTF)
  - MOTION BY HRTF: Send this statement from HRC to Oregon House of Representatives Speaker Tina Kotek:

*"Dear Speaker Kotek,*

*I am writing you this note on behalf of the Portland Human Rights Commission. Oregon can no longer afford to prevent our communities from using mandatory inclusionary zoning as a tool to promote inclusive housing. We are writing to urge you to convene a work group on HB 2890, the bill to repeal O.R.S. 197.309.*

*This issue is a priority to the Portland Human Rights Commission, and is a necessary step to achieving equity in housing.*

*Because this issue is so important to our communities, we believe that at least 3 seats at the table must be reserved for community-based organizations who have been organizing around this issue. We would welcome a conversation about who would best occupy those seats.*

*Sincerely, Portland Human Rights Commission"*

MOTION PASSED

- Community and Police Relations Committee (CPRC)
  - Donita said Portland Police Bureau representatives presented Traffic Stops Data to the CPRC over the past two meetings. A subcommittee will be formed to go through the data and make recommendations to the CPRC about actions moving forward.

- The September meeting will be held at Harvey Scott School and will be a listening session focused on concerns in the Latino community.
- Damon mentioned that the Building Community by Understanding the Diversity of Our Cultural Experiences training subcommittee will be involved in training 130+ sergeants in the Police Bureau.

#### Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF)

- Kyle said progress is being made on the mapping project of at-risk communities.
- There will be an outreach event (a Charla) in Wood Village that will give training and free legal advice to Spanish-speaking community members on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### Public Comment:

- Regina Hannon from Copwatch said she was asked by Michael Moore to attend and comment. She thanked the HRC for the op-ed in *The Portland Tribune* urging people not to equate homelessness with lawlessness. She said she was appalled by the treatment of homeless campers in Chapman Square where the sprinklers were repeatedly turned on and Park Rangers were purposely giving false information. She urged the Mayor to include homeless people in any discussions about homelessness.
- Lavaun Heaster from Portland Commission on Disability (PCOD) thanked Human Rights Commissioner Linda McKim-Bell for bringing the Artemis of the Wildland flyers to the attention of PCOD.
- Lauren Morecny DePhillips is a PSU student and wanted to share awareness of Organ Harvesting in China and U.S. House Resolution 281 calling on China to immediately stop the practice of organ harvesting from its prisoners, particularly from Falun Gong prisoners of conscience and “members of other religious and ethnic minority groups.”
- Charles Johnson is a homeless advocate and urged the HRC to continue to address poverty and engage the City regarding homelessness.
- Josh Alpert, Policy Advisor from the Mayor’s Office, thanked HRC for its hard work. He thanked Sisters of the Road for their presentation and said the Mayor’s Office is on a journey with homelessness. Mayor Hales has met with many homeless community members and continues to work with them—there has not been a formal committee or task force created. Josh also said he would explore OEHR’s involvement with HRC tasks and that the Mayor has asked BDS to look into inclusionary zoning issues.

#### Additional Information

- Food was provided by Montiel’s Cocina.