



City of Portland, Oregon
Sonji Young, Chair
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Meeting Minutes

Date: May 7, 2014 **Time:** 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Location: 421 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 500 Portland, OR

Commission Attendees: Allan Lazo, Damon Isiah Turner, Aimee Samara, Linda McKim-Bell, Abdul Majidi, Emanuel Price, Ashley Horne, Kate Lore, Deyalo Bennette, Kyle Busse, Sonji Young, Sam Sachs

Commissioners Absent: Moloy Good

Staff Attendee: Sarah Milliron

Approval of Minutes and Agenda / Welcome and Gathering

- Chair Sonji Young called the meeting to order at 4:10.
- Sonji welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested an introduction from Commissioners, staff and community members.
- MOTION BY ABDUL MAJIDI: Approve meeting minutes.
SECOND: KYLE BUSSE
AMMENDMENTS: Bullet four under task force updates needs to be amended to “HRC needs to define the roles of the CPRC.”
ABSTAINED: ALLAN LAZO
MOTION PASSED
- MOTION BY KYLE BUSSE: Approve agenda
SECOND: KATE LORE
AMMENDMENTS: Multnomah Youth Commission update added to Upcoming Events. OEHR BAC and CDC updates added to Committee, Task Force and Liaison (Roundtable). The police accountability committee will now be referred to as the law enforcement review committee.
ABSTAINED: DAMON ISIAH TURNER
MOTION PASSED

OEHR Update

- Dante James updated the Commission on the open staff position. OEHR is still in the interview process and have narrowed down the candidates to two.
- Beginning July 1, Title II and Title VI coordinator and assistant position will now fall under the OEHR umbrella. Dante is currently having conversations as to whether Title I and VII will fall under the Office as well.
- One set of translation equipment was ordered for the hearing impaired and two sets for the immigrant and refugee communities. Dante is suggesting a City wide fund for interpretation services.
- The HRC would like to better understand the OEHR budget in order to better utilize the HRC budget.

Service Recognition

- Mayra is leaving the HRC in order to focus on her family. She thanked the Commission and said it was a great learning experience.
- Linda gave thanks for her quick thinking and Ashley, Kyle and Abdul thanked her for being action oriented.
- Allan asked for suggestions moving forward and Mayra said the HRC needs to partner with other organizations doing human rights work and suggested utilizing the Race Report of Western States as well as the upcoming Oregon Commission for Women report.

Immediate Business

- New Commissioner Nominations
 - Sam updated the Commission on the nomination process, stating he would be taking over as Chair, replacing Moloj and that interviews to fill the two seats would begin as soon as possible.
 - MOTION BY ALLAN LAZO: Sam Sachs to take over as chair of the Nominee Committee for Moloj Good
SECOND: KYLE BUSSEE
ABSTAINED: DAMON ISIAH TURNER
MOTION PASSED
- Bylaw review/proposal
 - Allan requested the HRC reviews the proposed protocols regarding the verbiage surrounding the CPRC vice chair position in sections III and IV,D. Aimee asked for background regarding the situation. Allan said the CPRC is one of the only major committees without a vice chair and Damon pointed out that there are differing opinions if the vice chair should be an active HRC member and if the HRC appoints the position. Abdul said the CPRC is a crucial committee and the HRC should be held accountable for overseeing it. He thinks the vice chair should be an HRC member. Kyle agreed saying that while a non-HRC member may be easier, having a chair non-HRC chair responsible for budget may lead to transparency and accountability issues. Dante agreed saying that a community member not approved by City Council should not be responsible for the budget. Linda suggested a decision regarding the vice chair should be made at the meeting. Allan said the language of the protocol needs to originate with the HRC and filtered down to the CPRC.
 - Sam suggested the appointment process needs to be equitable for everyone on the committee and there needs to be an interview process for all future individuals interested in joining.
 - MOTION BY KATE LORE: Approve the creation of the CPRC vice chair and that person be both an HRC commissioner and appointed by the HRC.
SECOND: AIMEE SAMARA
ABSTAINED: DEYALO BENNETTE, DAMON ISIAH-TURNER
MOTION PASSED
 - MOTION BY ALLAN LAZO: Revise protocols to read:
Section III: There shall be a Chair and Vice Chair of the Community and Police Relations Committee. The Chair and Vice Chair shall active members of the Human Rights Commission and shall be appointed to serve in this capacity by the Chair of the Human Rights Commission.
Section IV, D: The Vice Chair is responsible for fulfilling the duties of the Chair in his/her absence.
SECOND: KYLE BUSSEE
ABSTAINED: DAMON ISIAH TURNER
MOTION PASSED

- Program Coordinator-transition plan
 - Aimee said that the HRC role in the transition plan was discussed at the retreat and it was decided to seek input from Commissioners regarding the support of the new position. Aimee compiled the data and presented the feedback which was handed out. She noted that this was a starting point and additional feedback would be welcomed. She stressed the importance of communicating with Jeff as much of the feedback reflected observing the great work that he has done. Sonji reiterated the sentiments regarding Jeff and said it was important the HRC doesn't minimize his role and to recognize his capacities. She said that Dante, herself, Jeff and Aimee will work on the transition plan. Ashley asked if the plan was going to be both transitory and scope of work. Aimee responded that this is the beginning of conversations and will be ongoing.

- Council Liaison Program
 - Sonji explained that the liaison was a role intended to act as a bridge to Council and what the HRC was hearing from the community. It was to be a collaboration. She explained the program has not proceeded as far as they would have liked and asked if it was a program the HRC wanted to continue. Kyle explained that due to lack of capacity and the challenges of the scope of responsibility the program stalled. He believes it is important to continue those relationships and suggests the program continues but the kinks need to be ironed out. He offered to help interested individuals if the program continues. Aimee agreed and sees the program as a top priority. Individuals may contact Kyle about the possibility of organizing a committee.

Budget Expenditures Update

- Sonji and Dante discussed the remaining Commission budget with a month left in the fiscal year. She requested additional feedback regarding committee plans to spend the budget including additional expenditures and needs. Proposals need to be submitted from every committee by 5/9.

Upcoming Events and Emerging Issues

- Kyle updated the HTTF event held saying it identified four survivors and strengthened the network. The next event will be 8/17, location to be determined.
- Surveys were sent out regarding commission training topics. People expressed interest in learning about how the government works, communications, professional development, white privilege, recidivism, re-entry programs, GREC updates, cultural sustainability, and economic and restorative justice. Allan suggested the need for a plan to schedule meetings, asking if monthly or quarterly would be more efficient. Sonji suggested new commissioner orientations as well. Emanuel will assist.
- East Portland report to Council
 - Key points to present to Council include transit and property taxes. Kate noted that the meeting attendees all worked in social service. However, it is important for the city to see the HRC out in the community. The HRC needs to follow up on the homework given to Council which then need to be given to participants. Sonji asked those that attended the meeting to summarize the key points and to forward to the executive committee to approve to go to Council.
- The Gottfried Awards are looking for new sponsors or to partner with another bureau. Kyle suggested looking within the HRC budget.
- Deyalo gave the Multnomah Youth Commission update stating he attended the summit on violence held on 4/5. The Commission created a list of action steps that he will give to the policy committee and make copies for the remaining Commissioners.

Committee, Task Force and Liaison Updates (Roundtable)

- Ashley updated the Policy Committee saying that she is rethinking the function of the committee and intends to meet with the different committees to discuss policy issues in an effort to go to “where the work happens”. Looking into law enforcement policies was a request from roundtable feedback. She requested a schedule of meetings for her to attend. She said that the Policy Committee will act in a supporting role for other committees and task forces. Damon said he will be joining the Policy Committee.
- Abdul updated the CPRC. He said they discussed the possibility of Chair and Vice-Chair as well as translator funding for the Cully event. Alan asked if they were reading to move forward with a Chair recommendation but Abdul declined the position.
- Emanuel updated the newly formed Law Enforcement Review Committee. They are currently focusing their efforts on the 9 year old girl who was brought to jail in handcuffs without a parent present.
 - Deyalo suggested quick action by the HRC on this issue. Amy gave a list of suggested action items brought up in their meeting: Contact the mother, contact Portland Parent Union, gather information and make a decision on next steps. Kate and Sonji will draft a letter to the editor to The Oregonian by Friday however further work will need to be done from a policy perspective. He requested Commissioners be in contact him, Deyalo or Amy with questions. Damon requested LERCOM share their work and mission with the CPRC. Emanuel stressed the importance of distinguishing between the two committees and offered to attend the next CPRC meeting.
- Allan said he is currently filling the HRC role at the OEHR BAC meetings but will give someone else the opportunity. Deyalo said he is interested in filling that role.
- Linda updated the CDC saying that they are working on the housing forum scheduled for the fall and will be meeting 5/14. She will send out communications with details.
- The Communications Committee is reworking the newsletter and is open to recommendations. Roundtable feedback suggested a clearinghouse of information sent out, possible quarterly via the website. They are also looking into utilizing the United Way as a cross-marketer.
- The HRTF is partnering with the CDC to plan the roundtable scheduled for 7/10-11. They are also discussing bus tours with the Fair Housing Council.
- The HTTF will be meeting with someone from Representative Carolyn Tomai’s office. They will be co-sponsoring a table with IPR at the Latino Conference June 13th.

Public Comment

- Lavonne gave an update on PCOD, discussing their monthly newsletter. It gives information on meetings and their successes. She said they are postponing their youth event until next fall and the ADA celebration is to be held on 7/26.
- Charles Johnson suggested using the budget surplus on incentives for participants e.g. the human trafficking event. He said providing dinner or clothes. He suggested the HRC get out into the public more and mentioned parades as a way to do that. Linda said the HRC will look into the Pride Parade. Ashley suggested a matrix of events be created to increase HRC presence. He also suggested partnering with libraries to do youth outreach and the HRC needs hold their meeting outside of the downtown area.
- Courtney talked about including ADA when thinking about inclusion and translation. Not all meetings are wheelchair accessible. She suggested HTTF partner or at least contact CIO.

Adjourned at 6:45 pm