

WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2013 @ 9:30AM
BROADWAY BUILDING, ORCAS ROOM
950 BROADWAY STREET
TACOMA, WA 98402**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners: Steve Hunt, Chair; Clarence Henderson, Commissioner; Charlene Strong, Commissioner; Shawn Murinko, Commissioner; Deborah Lee, Commissioner.

Staff: Sharon Ortiz, Executive Director; Cheryl Strobert, Asst. Director for Enforcement; Laura Skinner, Executive Assistant; Stacia Hollar, AAG.

OPENING AND WELCOME

Chair Hunt called the meeting to order at 9:36AM.

MINUTES

February 28, 2013 meeting minutes; AAG Hollar suggested revisions to include specific statutory reference regarding executive session.

Commissioner Murinko made motion to approve February 28, 2013 with revisions; Commissioner Henderson seconds; motion carried.

CASE CLOSURES

Commissioner Murinko abstains from case Talukdar v. WA ST DOT; Commissioner Lee abstains from case Avra-Pascual v. Boeing.

Commissioner Henderson made motion to approve cases; Commissioner Strong seconds; motion carried.

Commissioner Lee abstains from cases Rothwell v. Yelm Community Schools and Wheeler v. North Thurston Public Schools.

Commissioner Strong made motion to approve cases; Commissioner Murinko seconds; motion carried.

Remainder of cases: Commissioner Lee made motion to approve remainder of cases; Commissioner Strong seconds; motion carried.

ED REPORT

Director Ortiz spoke about HB1024 service animal legislation; explained bill did not pass from house floor; stated it was budget related and could come back.

Director Ortiz attended HUD event in Seattle along with Asst. Director Strobert and Specialist Christina Higgins, received updates on federal regulations.

Director Ortiz updated Commissioner's regarding shared space/ satellite offices; negotiations with Tacoma and Everett L&I has given space for an investigator to use; in process of recruiting for a Civil Rights Investigator 2 in Yakima.

Director Ortiz stated working with legislature to be held harmless in regards to budget.

Director Ortiz announced Spanish Radio is now being hosted by San Juanita Soto, CRI4; Juanita has also conducted outreach and trainings with the community and agricultural businesses.

Director Ortiz said ACLU is tracking our progress with the work groups for rule making; has requested we hold another Seattle meeting for input.

Director Ortiz gave Kudos to Idolina Reta, CRI4; Idolina took place on panel for Hispanic Legislative Day about discrimination, did excellent job; Commissioner Henderson also attended several events that day.

Director Ortiz provided IT update and Budget sheets to Commissioners for their review.

Director Ortiz attended various meetings throughout the past month.

COMMISSIONER REPORTING

Commissioner Murinko: Spoke about the service animal legislation; Laura Lindstrand, Policy Analyst, valuable legal expertise regarding the legislation; commended Director Ortiz for all the work on the legislation.

Director Ortiz also acknowledged and commended Toby Olson and Joe Puckett for the work on the service animal legislation.

Commissioner Murinko spoke about the Lt. Gov Association, passed resolution to help increase person in employment with disabilities.

Commissioner Lee discussed disabilities and IEP in schools; modified curriculum to a student's IEP may mean student does not graduate but receives a certificate of completion which can lead to problems with employment.

Commissioner Strong: spoke of Equal Rights Washington and interest in rule making; suggested another meeting in Seattle in May.

Director Ortiz and Commissioners discussed holding rule making meeting the evening of May 23, 2013; hold monthly business meeting in morning and rule making work group in evening.

Commissioner Lee will secure location for the evening town hall/ work group meeting; Commissioner Strong will advertise and contact public and stake holders to send invitations.

Chair Hunt: stated to Commissioners to provide input on next year's ideas to Director Ortiz for the May business meeting.

Commissioner Lee: Working with the Indian Civil Rights and school districts; Quinault filed federal law suit; working on preventing discrimination within the schools.

Commissioner Henderson: Attended Hispanic Affairs Commission meeting, advised others to attend, good outreach, heard from a lot of constituents.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT (OPMA), AAG HOLLAR

AAG Hollar provided a hand out to Commissioners and staff; discussed the importance of following the OPMA and possible fines.

AAG Hollar mentioned to Commissioners and staff regarding a public disclosure training she attended at the AG office; advises to use personal computers and equipment sparingly.

YAKIMA FORUM PLANNING

Director Ortiz and Commissioners to contact elected officials.

Commissioner Lee mentioned she may not be able to attend the April 2013 Commission meeting and public forum, will know for sure as the date approaches.

Chair Hunt stated he and Director Ortiz will be doing outreach in Yakima on April 17th, 18th and 19th.

REMINDER MAY STRATEGIC PLANNING

Chair Hunt and Commissioners have already spoken about this earlier in the meeting; Commissioners to provide input to Director Ortiz Friday before meeting.

Commissioner Hunt spoke about the notification of May 2013 meetings; secure location and provide information to Laura Skinner, Exec. Assistant to update the Code Reviser's office.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Winters, Tacoma/ Commissioner provided contacts to attend the Yakima forum and also mentioned space at South Seattle Community College, Building E for possible location for May's business meeting and town hall meeting.

Marya Gingrey, City of Tacoma offered to assist with the May 2013 town hall meeting; provide help getting the word out for the work group on rule making.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:54AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Skinner
Commission Clerk