

WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2013 AT 9:30AM

Southeast Community Center, Martin Luther King Jr. Room
1211 South 7th Street
Yakima, WA 98901

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Stephen Hunt, Chair; Clarence Henderson, Commissioner; Charlene Strong Commissioner; Shawn Murinko, Commissioner.

Absent: Deborah Lee, Commissioner.

Staff: Sharon Ortiz, Executive Director; Cheryl Strobert, Asst. Director; Juanita Soto, Specialist; Stacia Hollar, AAG.

OPENING AND WELCOME

Chair Hunt called the meeting to order at 9:35AM,

MINUTES

March 28, 2013 meeting minutes; Commissioner Murinko made motion to approve; Commissioner Strong seconds; motion carried.

CASE CLOSURES

No conflicts noted; Commissioner Murinko made motion to approve case closures; Commissioner Henderson seconds; motion carried.

ED REPORT

Director Ortiz went over the service animal bill; has been revived and is in the house and senate budget.

Director Ortiz and Asst. Director Strobert attended Representative Cyrus Habib's workgroup that is working on strategies for employment of people with disabilities in the public and private sectors. Commissioner Murinko and Director Ortiz will be meeting with the Representative on Tuesday.

Tacoma Office of Civil Rights has given the Wa State Human Rights Commission workspace for one investigator. Thank you. The Commission is looking for new office space in Olympia as a cost savings.

Director Ortiz gave kudos to Laura Skinner and Juanita Soto for all of the work they put into last night's forum. In the future, would like to partner with other groups to draw a larger crowd.

IT update-We continue to update the website; working on restoring the intranet and VDI is up and running.

Director Ortiz stated following this meeting, will be going to Mattawa and providing a presentation for the Commission on Hispanic Affairs; Commissioner Murinko and Director Ortiz viewed the neighborhood where there is opposition to farm worker housing .

COMMISSIONER REPORTING

No reports.

ACTION ITEMS

May 23, 2013 Commission Meeting; Commissioner Strong shares concerns expressed by stakeholders including the ACLU, Legal Voice and others regarding the need for an additional meeting to gather information and provide education concerning LGBT issues associated with the rulemaking process.

Commissioner Murinko expresses that he wants to be sure that the rulemaking process does not lag on.

Commissioner Strong asks how much is being spent on Commissioner travel. There is a conference in September that she would like to attend.

Director Ortiz cautions that budget is tight and recommends that Commissioners have a line item budget for their outreach.

Commissioners and staff were assigned responsibilities in preparation for the May Commission/Planning meeting.

Break 10:15am

PUBLIC FORUM DISCUSSION

Commissioner Strong expressed her concerns about the Chairs communication style at the public forum last night and communications with others.

Specialist Soto shares her outreach efforts in Eastern Washington.

Director Ortiz recommends that Commissioners prepare a report setting forth the outcome of the forum with recommendations and that they be posted on the website.

Commissioner Murinko makes a motion to allocate more staffing resources to Eastern Washington; motion withdrawn.

Discussion will continue at the May planning meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Skinner
Commission Clerk