

WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

April 26, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM by Commissioner Chair Charlene Strong.

Commissioners Present: Charlene Strong, Clarence Henderson, Guadalupe Gamboa, Lenore Three Stars and Skylee Sahlstrom.

Executive Director Sharon Ortiz, Deputy Director Cheryl Strobert, Assistant Attorney General Sharon James, and Commission Clerk Deborah Gonzales were present.

Draft meeting minutes from the March 22, 2018 were considered. The minutes were unanimously approved as drafted.

The following case was pulled prior to the Commission Meeting: Pacheco Cruz, Celia v Roanoke Inn.

The closed cases were unanimously approved.

Director Ortiz submitted three reasonable cause cases this week for conciliation. One was administratively re-opened. She recently attended a fair housing conference in Spokane. During the conference, it was mentioned that the U.S. Housing & Urban Development is investigating sexual harassment abuse of elderly people in assisted living.

Director Ortiz requested that Commissioners conduct outreach within their communities to inform the public of what the Human Rights Commission does. She will be meeting with the Council for the Blind and a representative from the Governor's office for disability to work on a resolution to assist the blind in reading prescription labels.

Commissioner Henderson has selected four community groups in Seattle and Tacoma that he is going to visit in May, and request to be on their agenda to discuss community activities.

Commissioner Gamboa attended an event of the state officially recognizing Cesar Chavez's birthday. Governor Inslee signed the bill in front of over 200 people in Yakima. He also attended a conference at the Central Washington University of the Latino students' organization called MEChA. Over 100 people attended and he spoke about the upcoming commission meeting, and the Human Rights Commission.

Commissioner Sahlstrom is trying to get involved with a group of organizations to discuss racial equality issues.

Commissioner Three Stars connected with Shon Gates-Wertman with the Washington State Bar Association to discuss the sexual harassment policy for field workers, and put together outreach opportunities. She also participated in a community wide group in Spokane on racial reconciliation. One of the partners, World Relief Organization, invited Governor Inslee to attend one of the discussions. She continues to work with the American Indian Community Center where people can raise concerns they have in the community.

Chair Strong contacted a city council member to bring together representatives from different labor organizations to discuss sexual harassment issues and their protocol. Chair Strong was invited to speak about SB 6471.

AAG James was invited to speak to a high school class at Capitol High School. The presentation is on Civil Rights and she will speak about what role the Human Rights Commission plays. Janice Whitman is assisting in the presentation.

The next Commission meeting will be held on May 24, 2018 in Yakima at the Henry Beauchamp Community Center. The Commission meeting will begin at 5:30PM. A public forum will be held at 6:00PM. Brochures will be provided to reiterate that the Commission will not collect information regarding immigration status. Different agencies will deliver short presentations discussing what services they offer and what the rights of the people are.

There was no executive session held at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM by Commissioner Chair Charlene Strong.