

**WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2015 @ 12:00 PM
711 S. CAPITOL WAY, SUITE 402
OLYMPIA, WA 98504**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners: Steve Hunt, Chair; Charlene Strong, Commissioner; Skylee Robinson, Commissioner; Lenore Three Stars, Commissioner.

Absent: Clarence Henderson, Commissioner.

Staff: Sharon Ortiz, Executive Director; Cheryl Strobert, Asst. Director; Laura Skinner, Commission Clerk; Stacia Hollar, AAG; Dean Hirst, Specialist.

Public: Kathy Ann Stebbins, Complainant and colleague; John Skelton, Complainant.

OPENING AND WELCOME

Chair Hunt called the meeting to order at 12:06PM.

RECONSIDERATIONS

Specialist Hirst presented reconsideration:

Specialist Hirst provided overview of complaint by Kathy Ann Stebbins v. Girl Scouts of E. WA & N. Idaho, 32PRZ-0758-11-2; provided information why the reconsideration should be denied.

Chair Hunt introduced Kathy Ann Stebbins, Complainant, and gave her 10 minutes to explain why the Commission should not adopt the deny recommendations for her reconsideration.

Commissioners discussed funds and community support regarding fund raising activities.

**Break 12:25PM
Resume 12:35PM**

Ms. Stebbins went over several reasons why both her cases should be granted, funding, fund raising, her troop treated differently than others, specifically funding and Girl Scout t-shirts.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to adopt the deny recommendation; Commissioner Strong seconds; motion carried.

Specialist Hirst presented reconsideration:

Specialist Hirst provided overview of complaint by Kathy Ann Stebbins v. Girl Scouts of E. WA & N. Idaho, 32EZ-0584-11-2; provided information why the reconsideration should be denied.

Chair Hunt provided 10 minutes for Ms. Stebbins to provide why the Commission should not adopt the deny recommendations for her reconsideration.

Ms. Stebbins reiterated same reasons why her cases should be granted, funding, fund raising, her troop treated differently than others, specifically funding and girl scout t-shirts, policies.

Commissioners asked about orientation, training and regulations regarding her volunteer employment status.

Commissioner Robinson made motion to adopt the deny recommendation; Commissioner Strong seconds; motion carried.

Break 1:00PM
Resume 1:12PM

Specialist Hirst presented reconsideration:

Specialist Hirst provided overview of complaint by John Skelton v. WA ST DOC, 06EADZ-0395-13-4; provided information why the reconsideration should be granted.

Chair Hunt introduced John Skelton, Complainant and gave 10 minutes to explain why he accepts the grant recommendation of his complaint.

Mr. Skelton stated that he is pleased HRC granted his reconsideration; would like to have a complete interview; no completed ICI was done; no witnesses were contacted; reasonable accommodation request.

Chair Hunt suggested to Mr. Skelton, the RA request would be considered a new complaint and advised him to follow the process and submit new complaint.

Commissioner Robinson made motion to adopt the grant recommendation; Commissioner Three Stars seconds; motion carried.

Break 1:25PM
Resume 1:40PM

Clerk Skinner informed Commissioners the next reconsideration the Complainant wanted to participate by phone; called Helen Deconinck v. Tri Cities Community Health; no answer from Ms. Deconinck; will call again later.

Specialist Hirst presented reconsideration:

Specialist Hirst provided overview of complaint by Alem Desta v. Fox Rent A Car, 17EDS-0414-13-4, provided information why the reconsideration should be denied.

Commissioner Robinson made motion to adopt the recommendation; Commissioner Strong seconds; motion carried.

Specialist Hirst presented reconsideration:

Specialist Hirst provided overview of complaint by Teri Herold-Prayer v. WA ST DOC, 34EWZ-0394-13-4; provided information why the reconsideration should be denied.

Commissioner Robinson made motion to adopt the recommendation; Commissioner Strong seconds; motion carried.

Specialist Hirst presented reconsideration:

Specialist Hirst provided overview of complaint by Kathleen Bitow v. WA ST DSHS/ Western State Hospital, 27EADZ-0724-13-4; provided information why the reconsideration should be denied.

Commissioner Robinson made motion to adopt the recommendation; Chair Hunt seconds; motion carried.

Clerk Skinner informed Commissioners she attempted to call Ms. Deconinck 3 times and emailed her once; no answer or reply.

Commissioner decided to hear the reconsideration recommendation.

Specialist Hirst presented reconsideration:

Specialist Hirst provided overview of complaint by Helen Deconinck v. Tri-Cities Community Health, 11EAD-0557-14-5; provided information why the reconsideration should be denied.

Commissioner Robinson made motion to adopt the recommendation; Commissioner Strong seconds; motion carried.

MEETING MINUTES

August 27, 2015 meeting minutes; Commissioner Robinson made motion to adopt; Commissioner Three Stars seconds; motion carried.

CASE CLOSURES

Director Ortiz informed Commissioners HRC transferred 15 cases to Tacoma Human Rights.

Commissioner Three Stars made motion to adopt; Commissioner Strong seconds; motion carried.

Director Ortiz provided cases that were pulled from agenda:

Feathers v. Supercuts
Abbruzza v. Trader Joes
Abbruzza v. Starbucks
Copeland v. Wal Mart
Christianson v. Cherry Creek Mortgage
Robinson v. WA ST Fish & Wildlife
Morgan v. WA ST DSHS

Commissioner Strong made motion to adopt remaining cases; Commissioner Robinson seconds; motion carried.

ED REPORT

Director Ortiz provided update on budget, possible move and service animal legislation; informed Commissioners of 2 cases forwarded to AG's office for litigation; working on aged cases, no longer have back log of new cases; provided personnel update; farm workers unit; Commission initiated complaint against Hunters Food Bank; Limited English proficient (LEP), Asst. Director Strobert attending conference in Ellensburg October; ADA event in Seattle, Idolina Reta and Kim Pierce attended and worked to set up; provided updates on HUD and EEOC contracts; attended several meetings; informed Commissioners of several outreach activities conducted by HRC staff.

COMMISSIONER REPORTING

Commissioner Strong participated in the pride parade in June.

Commissioner Three Stars has nothing to report.

Chari Hunt has nothing to report.

Commissioner Robinson has nothing to report.

AAG UPDATES

AAG Hollar updated the Commissioners on public records; court ruled text messages dealing with work are public business; went over using personal devices for business.

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FORMS

Commissioners provided forms.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2016

Chair Hunt informed the Commission he will be resigning April 2016.

Commissioners agreed to wait until all Commissioners were at meeting to plan for 2016.

ACTION ITEMS: FOOD BANK COMPLAINT

Director Ortiz already went over this during her ED report.

OLD BUSINESS: EDUCATION PROJECT AND CORPORATE CARDS

Director Ortiz stated the education project needs to be completed.

Commissioners agreed.

Clerk Skinner will send corporate card applications to Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission will move into Executive Session to review performance of a public employee(s) pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(g)(i). We anticipate the Executive Session will last 15 minutes and we will reconvene in public session at 3:40PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:42PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Skinner
Commission Clerk