

Seattle Human Rights Commission **MINUTES**

Thursday, May 5, 2022

6:00–8:00 p.m.

[WebEx](#)

Facilitators: As listed

Notetaker: *Jessica Bhuiyan*
(Next month: *Kira Rosenlind*)

Timekeeper: *Allan Nyaribo*
(Next month:)

Commissioners Present (7): Alexander Tang (Communications Co-Chair), Allan Nyaribo, Guneeta Chadha, Erika Chen (Interim Appeals Chair), Julia Ismael (Administrative Co-Chair), Natasha Bennett (Interim 5 Commissions Co-Chair), Tyrone Grandison

Commissioners Absent (no more than 4 absent for quorum): Jackie Schultz, Kira Rosenlind, Jessica Bhuiyan

Seattle Office of Civil Rights Attendee(s): Marta Idowu, Civil Rights Advisory Commission Liaison, Helen Gebreamlak

Public Attendees: Howard Gale (Seattle STOP)

Time	Topic	Presenter
6:00 - 6:05	Land Acknowledgement Call to Order and Roll Call, Welcome Kira Rosenlind Public Comment/Introductions (1 min each)	Julia Timekeeper
6:05 - 6:10	Approve April Minutes *Needs vote Motion to approve minutes by Tyrone Grandison Motion seconded by Allan Nyaribo VOTE Yays: Julia Ismael, Natasha Bennett, Allan Nyaribo, Guneeta Chadha, Erika Chen, Tyrone Grandison, and Alexander Tang (7) Nays: - (0) Abstentions: - (0) Members absent from vote: Jackie Schultz, Kira Rosenlind, Jessica Bhuiyan	Erika / Kira
COMMUNITY LEARNING		
6:10 - 6:40	Follow up update from Director Derrick Wheeler Smith Seattle Office of Civil Rights, Policy Strategy Training Julia: Ty, Marta, and I met with Derrick Wheeler-Smith. Derrick is unable to answer questions in writing. He is able to come back to our meeting in person to respond to the rest of the meeting. We are in a deep discussion with the City about pursuing amicus status. We still be discussing it tonight. Helen Gebreamlak went over a Policy Strategy Training.	Julia Helen Gebreamlak

	<p>Kyana Wheeler shared a few links:</p> <p>Strong HRC efforts in history - 1990 HRC Report on Police Accountability http://archives.seattle.gov/digital-collections/media/collectiveaccess/images/1/9/5/0/52008_ca_object_representations_media_195007_original.pdf</p> <p>HRC Response to WTO Police Actions http://archives.seattle.gov/digital-collections/media/collectiveaccess/images/1/6/9/8/17642_ca_object_representations_media_169808_original.pdf</p> <p>SMC - HRC Power & Authority https://library.municode.com/wa/seattle/codes/municipal_code/243570?nodet=TIT14HURI_CH14.04FAEMPR_SUBCHAPTER_IIIADEN_14.04.070PODUCCO</p> <p>Portion of HRC History https://www.seattle.gov/cityarchives/exhibits-and-education/digital-document-libraries/the-seattle-open-housing-campaign</p> <p>From 2020-- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CTb594kMYfd6_Xjexa0leLVNzgPvhFGt/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111291203265106096067&rtpof=true&sd=true</p>	
APPEALS		
6:40- 6:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● May 16 Appeals - need Commissioners <p>Erika: We need a few commissioners to sit in the May 16th appeals hearing.</p> <p>Natasha: I can join if it's from 9-10am</p> <p>Guneeta: I can also joining if it's from 9-10am</p>	Erika
FIVE COMMISSION COMMITTEE		
6:45 - 6:55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prisoner Justice Day, collaboration with Disability Commission <p>Natasha: We would like to see if anyone interested in joining a meeting with the Disability Commission. Is anyone interested?</p> <p>Guneeta: I can join.</p> <p>Julia: I can help, but not commit to anything right now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Five Commission letter, Hawaii model re: exiting sex trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to Hawaii model: https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2022/bills/SB3347_HTM 	Natasha

Natasha: Schuyler, Natasha, and I were working on a project with former commissioner Eric Gray. This would work on basic income guarantee for sex workers, as well as survivors and victims of sex trafficking, as seen with Hawaii's legislation (see link). The letter has been drafted, but we still need to think on this since we lost a few commissioners. I can follow up through email and provide a few details. I don't think it would be particularly a lot of work, but may need coordination and meetings with the other commissioners.

Tyrone: I am interested in joining this effort.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

6:55 - 7:10

- Update on Amicus Status

Allan / Tyrone

Erika: We are charged with the Open Public Meetings Acts (OPMA), which means we are not allowed to discuss anything under attorney-client privilege in an open public meeting forum as we currently are. We cannot address the contents of those communications, which makes it difficult for us to continue the work we do with the community. We can't discuss the content, but we can share our feelings about this process.

Julia: I was in tears with the unchecked power with the City. We are doing this because we need to— we need to represent our community. This moment has taught me to reflect on my role as a Commissioner: did we do our best? We need more voices as a commission and need to be deeply informed and connected. We need to be gathering the voices of those who have been most affected. We have to be responsible.

Erika: I will organize us to write a letter to the public. We are not supported by the institution to be a bridge to advise them. Instead, we are backed into a corner. Perhaps we should all quit. Or maybe we request a meeting with an attorney from the city's attorney office.

Natasha: I wanted to express what has come up to me with this- what is our duty and nature of the Seattle Human Rights Commission? Are we part of the executive? I have a lot of questions about our independence. I wanted to express that I wanted to continue our conversation that Erika brought up.

Guneeta: I am feeling similar to Natasha. I am really happy to discuss actionable steps that I can do. Erika, you did a great job of at least what we can do.

Natasha: I wanted to look at other options- holding a vote for a waiver for attorney-client privilege with the mayor or to request a meeting with the mayor.

	<p>Erika: I want to say that we could possibly have smaller meetings so that we're not at quorum.</p> <p>Natasha: We have a meeting outside a meeting with an attorney or smaller groups. As for meeting with the mayor, I would like to think more.</p> <p>Tyrone: I am beyond disappointed with everything that has happened in the last couple of months. It is just as disheartening to be in space where a question that was very pointed that was asked. "Is the SHRC an independent body?" The people who wrote the rules were asked this question and the answer is "no." I am with Erika, let's write a letter about this.</p> <p>Allan: This is not what I signed up for... this is an institution which is saying that "we can do this" but not the "other". At this point I am stuck- I am very frustrated.</p> <p>Julia: I am happy to know that everyone, including Alex, that we have support. We have our honor and our conscience. To you all, you have my gratitude.</p> <p>Erika: How about we meet in smaller groups? Alex: I'm sad that we're paralyzed and in line with meeting in smaller groups. Natasha: I want to be on the same page and want to meet in smaller groups with an executive leadership meeting before that. Tyrone: Executive leadership meeting, then small groups. Allan: How constricted are we with our task force meeting next week? I would like some direction with our task force next Monday.</p> <p>Tyrone: I'm not sure how we can have one.</p> <p>Guneeta: I'm very frustrated still and a little disappointed that we should meet in small groups. The other options suck.</p> <p>Postpone next CJ task force meeting?</p>	
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COMMISSION DEVELOPMENT

<p>7:10 - 7:45</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recruitment update, Interim / permanent Co-Chair positions [TABLED] ● Federal Status for the Duwamish Tribe [TABLED] ● Fellows and Interns [TABLED] ● Vote on Work Plan (Tabled from April) <p>Motion to adopt the 2022 work plan: Ty Grandison Motion seconded by the 2022 work plan: Natasha</p> <p>Yea: Julia Ismael, Natasha Bennet, Tyrone Grandison, Allan Nyaribo, Guneeta Chadha, Erika Chen, and Alexander Tang (7)</p>	<p>Julia Alex Natasha Erika / Kira</p>
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LAST (AND FIRST) THOUGHTS		
7:45 - 7:55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Rights Day - "What should we be thinking about now and what can be done to prepare?" [TABLED] 	Alex
UPDATES, CELEBRATIONS, REQUESTS		
7:55 - 8:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seattle Office of Civil Rights Updates <p>Flag raising event with the LGBTQ Commission is happening next month</p>	Marta
	ANNOUNCEMENTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next month meeting date is June 2, 2022 Submit June agenda items before May 23 to any Co-Chair 	Julia
CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT DATES - <i>What did we miss? Let us know!</i>		
May 2022		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eid ul-Fitr – 5/2/22 or 5/3/22 depending on local practices, most observe the date on 5/2/22, US date is Monday, 5/2/22, Kenya observes the Eid on 5/4/22 Children's / Boy's Day (Japanese) – 5/5/22 –annual date 5 May Vesak / Vesākha / Vaiśākha / Buddha Jayanti / Buddha Purnima / Buddha Day (Buddhist) – 5/16/22 Kamehameha Day (Hawaii) – 6/11/22 - annual date 6/11 Juneteenth – 6/19/22 – annual date 6/19 Summer Solstice (northern hemisphere) – 6/21/22 @ 2.13 a.m. PDT, 9.13 a.m. UTC May – Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Jewish American Heritage Month 		
June 2022		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kamehameha Day (Hawaii) – 6/11/22 - annual date 6/11 Juneteenth – 6/19/22 – annual date 6/19 Summer Solstice (northern hemisphere) – 6/21/22 @ 2.13 a.m. PDT, 9.13 a.m. UTC Matariki, Maori New Year (New Zealand) – 6/24/22 June – LGBT Pride Month 		