

Human Rights Commission: Meeting Summary

December 8, 2021

Commission Members	Present/Absent	Guests
Angelo Arredondo, Chair	P	ASL Interpretation Team
Krista Gallagher, Vice Chair	P	Amelia Knight
Abigail Allen	A	Lynelle Wilcox
Oni Marchbanks	A	Leah Brooks
Kelsey Murray	P	Bonnie Davidson
Cathy Ostrand-Ponsioen	P	
David Rheinholdt	A	
Tricarico Schwartz	P	
Michael Watters	P	
Staff		
Gretchen Bennett	P	
Lt. Debra Aguilar	A	

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Review of Agenda

The YouTube channel transmission/recording was noted. Chair Arredondo called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. Introductions were shared.

2. Public Comment

Lynelle Wilcox discussed recent example of violence against a person who is unsheltered, noting two additional examples since her last correspondence to the Commission. One example involved a person who was also blind. She expressed support for the Chapter 97 task force recommendation.

The Commission also noted written correspondence received from Lee Coyne.

3. Consent Calendar

Commissioner Murray motioned to approve the consent calendar which consisted of the agenda and meeting minutes; Commissioner Watters seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Action and/or Discussion Items:

a. Chapter 97: Commissioner Schwartz reviewed the written recommendation from the Chapter 97 Equity Lens Subcommittee. They thanked all who contributed to the research and recommendation. Commissioners Watters, Ostrand- Ponsioen, Gallagher and Arredondo expressed support. Commissioner Schwartz motioned that the Human Rights Commission shall approve the recommendation as written and refer the recommendation to City Council for consideration. Commissioner Watters seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendation and refer to Council was unanimously adopted.

b. Workplan and Elections Chair Arredondo invited discussion regarding 2022 workplan and elections. How should the planning be structured? Vice Chair Gallagher noted it is difficult for people to feel belonging and connection during Covid and urged the Commission to plan for that, which could include attending other organization meetings or hosting a town hall. The group decided to wait until January to plan, given the anticipated addition of four new Commissioners.

The group noted one question will be to consider if the current subcommittees shall remain. The role of the Chair and Vice Chair were noted; Chair Arredondo and Vice Chair Gallagher expressed plans to be open to serving for another year in the roles, if selected, and welcomes others to express interest as well.

c. Bias Crime and Incident Report: No reports of crimes or incidents this month.

b. Complaints Report: No complaints received this month.

5. Task Force and Project Updates:

a. Awareness: Chair Watters noted the draft 'year in review' communication. Feedback welcome; it will be distributed Friday. A 2022 Communication Plan is under development. They will not be continuing to volunteer with this task force. Chair Arredondo noted that new members and a new chair would be needed to continue this subcommittee and welcomed volunteers. The work may be able to be accomplished as a part of the regular Commission process, now that systems have been put in place.

b. Equity Asks Report: Gretchen shared that City Council held a roundtable training related to DEI; the new DEI Coordinator has started work, and other updates.

c. Equity Lenses/Chapter 97: Commissioner Schwartz noted the group has completed its tasks and will stand by to determine future steps.

d. LGBTQIA+ Intersectional Rights: Transgender Day of Remembrance was held 11/20/21. Chair Watters expressed appreciation for all who contributed, and noted a lovely letter received from the former Chair of the HRC expressing support for the event.

6. Staff Updates: Gretchen thanked Commissioner Watters as their service on the Commission ends this month.

7. Calendar of Events: No events shared.

8. Member Remarks and Announcements: Commissioners expressed thanks to Commissioner Watters for their service.

Minutes respectfully presented by staff Gretchen Bennett.