



PARTICIPANTS

Commission Members Present:

Hamadi Jackson, Chair; Kelsey Murray, Vice Chair; Joaquin Lara Midkiff, Lisa Novak, Cathy Ostrand-Ponsioen, David Rheinholdt, Kaitlin Strathdee, Hope Strayer

Staff:

Gretchen Bennett, Lt. Debra Aguilar

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Review of Agenda

Chair Jackson welcomed the group and facilitated introductions. The You Tube channel transmission/recording was noted. Introductions were shared. New Commissioner Kaitlin Strathdee joined for her first meeting.

2. Public Comment

Satya Chandragiri submitted written public comment; highlights were shared. Chair Jackson encouraged attending the upcoming Community Violence town hall and expressed interest in fitting in to the effort. Lt. Aguilar spoke of upcoming meetings planned on the topic which would be an opportunity for HRC to engage. Discussion about community violence ensued.

Dr. Irvin Brown submitted written public comment; highlights were shared. Chair Jackson spoke of desire to work on this issue. Commissioner Ostrand-Ponsioen noted this is at the core of what we do. Lt. Aguilar shared about recent work with Ben McBride and the Circle of Belonging as one possible partner with which to connect. An idea was explored to hear from additional voices; Commissioner Strathdee asked about inviting organizations to speak.

3. Consent Calendar

Commissioner Lara Midkiff moved the approval of the agenda. Vice Chair Murray seconded the motion. The motion to approve the agenda was unanimously approved. A correction was made to the minutes to reflect the correct minutes approved at the last meeting. Commissioner Lara Midkiff moved the approval of the minutes as corrected. Vice Chair Murray seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes as corrected was unanimously approved.

4. Action and/or Discussion Items:

a. Bias Crime/Incident Update

Lt. Aguilar reported about two crimes and one incident. She anticipates a statistics summary will be ready by next month. There was discussion about charging and sentencing.

b. Complaints Report

Gretchen reported on two complaints partially received. Commissioner Lara Midkiff clarified if the DOJ statistics for Salem were ready; Lt. Aguilar replied not yet.

Discussion ensued about having the HRC be an option for victims of hate incidents reported to the SPD. The group agreed for SPD to have the QR code cards available to officers to distribute. Gretchen noted the importance of finding a way to report information to the DOJ that may not be getting to them, without increasing duplicative reporting or increased burden on reporters.

c. Conference with other HRC's

No new update.

d. Sanctuary policies

Information from Eugene was received, and the codes appear like Salem, with an exception to a broader statement about information collection. Commissioner Lara Midkiff is working to reach a person who was involved at the time of Eugene's code adoption. The group expressed interest in hearing more and listening for how to contribute in an action oriented way. The group decided to invite groups or individuals who may be able to speak given their experiences working with people who are migrant or indigenous. Suggestions included the Oregon Law Center, CAPACES, PCUN, and Theresa Leon.

e. Reporting Hate and Bias and Welcoming Spaces

Gretchen noted she has heard from one city so far, on our inquiry of how other HRC's receive reports. Discussed as a part of the Community Engagement Task Force update.

f. Homelessness Informational Summit

No new update.

5. Task Force and Project Updates:

- a. LGBTQIA+ Intersectional Rights:** Vice Chair Murray reported the group is thinking about how to increase comfort amongst people to report bias. They are looking to understand the belonging survey responses more fully from LGBTQIA+ communities and from there will have more thoughts. The group is considering a possible listening session.
- b. Community Engagement:** Commissioner Lara Midkiff shared the group developed discussion from the last HRC meeting around visiting locations in person. A handout about the vision, concept and next steps was discussed. The group agreed that they would need talking points, the HRC history, a common understanding of what the group is trying to accomplish, and a set of facts/data. Commissioner Strathdee spoke of facts as a starting point and having curriculum or resources to share. Gretchen will send the Safe Spaces materials previously collected as a possible thought for this.

Discussion about adding a dashboard to the web page was also discussed. One next step is to go through the web page in further detail. A next step is to collate all the info and confirm we have what we need. Commissioner Lara Midkiff also spoke about places of public trust, including the hospital, and suggested that we reach the City's representative on the hospital board.

Chair Jackson asked, what actions are we taking? He suggested that be a regular resolution to ask this question.

Commissioner Lara Midkiff raised the idea of a potluck. The group proposes a no-business social potluck for Saturday, March 9 at Noon. Gretchen will send inquiry to see for how many that will work/not work.

6. Staff Updates: Gretchen reached the state HRC and has a meeting coming up; FYI should anyone wish to join her. She also urged those who haven't yet taken the February meeting scheduling poll to do so please.

7. Calendar:

Commissioner Strayer referred to the written calendar. Additional events were shared.

8. Member Remarks and Announcements:

Commissioner Ostrand-Ponsioen welcomed Commissioner Strathdee, as did others! Commissioner Lara Midkiff urged all to donate blood, citing a 20 year low.

Minutes respectfully presented by staff Gretchen Bennett.