



**PARTICIPANTS**

Commission Members Present:

Hamadi Jackson, Chair; Kelsey Murray, Vice Chair; Laura Fouts; Jackie Leung; Robert Marshall; Joaquin Lara Midkiff, Lisa Novak, Cathy Ostrand-Ponsioen, Kaitlin Strathdee, Hope Strayer

Guests Present:

Dr. Brown; Kirra Pressey; Barry Lee Coyne

Staff Present:

Gretchen Bennett, AIC Lt. Robert Dowd

**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.

**2. Public Comment**

Barry Lee Coyne proposed to create an event, Elder fest, in May, to celebrate Older Americans Month. How? Where? He welcomed suggestions. He recommended a salute to centenarians and a parade, with older vehicles and music. He suggested a partnership with the library to curate materials and with Center 50+.

Chair Jackson asked if we are invited to spearhead, or to be a partner. Lee is willing to spearhead. Vice Chair Murray asked if there are other activities planned. Commissioner Novak noted a gathering with vehicles who will travel together with streamers, instead of a street-closing parade. Lee urged an action involving the public, perhaps at Loucks Auditorium, rather than a proclamation. Commissioner Fouts applauded the cause but wondered if HRC is the right venue, noting we can attend or volunteer, but do not have a role in organizing nor a budget. The group recognized support for the idea. Gretchen will reach library and Center 50+ staff and circle back with Lee.

**3. Consent Calendar**

Commissioner Marshall moved the approval of the consent calendar. Commissioner Lara Midkiff seconded the motion. The motion to approve the consent calendar was unanimously approved.

**4. Action and/or Discussion Items:**

**a. Bias Crime/Incident Update**

AIC Lt. Dowd reported about one incident related to social media. Commissioner Lara Midkiff noted it is a new type of incident; discussion ensued about the approach. Lt. Dowd shared the 2023 year end bias crime report. Discussion about the report contents ensued: information on the type of religion impacted was requested, concern for lack of reports received on housing status was noted, and discussion of how to impact this was explored.

#### **b. Complaints Report**

Gretchen reported on one incident related to housing status.

#### **c. Conference with other HRC's**

Chair Jackson is not hearing back from chairs in communities other than Eugene. Gretchen will work to reach staff to gauge interest.

#### **d. Sanctuary policies**

Commissioner Lara Midkiff spoke to outreach to organizations that work with people who are in migrant, farmworker, and indigenous communities, toward the aim of learning more. Additional suggestions for groups include the Oregon Law Center and the NW Justice Project.

#### **e. Full commission and task forces**

Commissioner Marshall observed the task forces are almost discussing some of the same things, although discussion starts differently. He suggested considering if the task forces as designed are what we want, or, setting clear objectives with left and right limits so that there isn't a mission drift.

Discussion ensued. The group affirmed value in retaining both task forces, noted that reducing harmful redundancy would be good, and to work at communicating. Suggestions for future changes included sharing agendas with one another, with writing something about task force goals and objectives, and encouraging different volunteers to engage at the groups.

Commissioner Lara Midkiff moved to keep both task forces, with a commitment to communicate more specific mission and tasks. Commissioner Strathdee seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Commissioner Marshall in dissent. Commissioner Ostrand-Ponsioen suggested having process training, such as Roberts Rules.

#### **f. Bylaws revision**

Gretchen walked through draft edits to the bylaws. Commissioner Marshall moved to change the name of task forces to committees. Commissioner Lara Midkiff seconded the motion. The motion to change the name of the task forces to committees was unanimously approved. Gretchen was asked to add a definition of a task force and a committee to the bylaws and bring the draft forward for action at the next meeting.

## 5. Committee and Project Updates:

- a. **Community Engagement:** Commissioner Lara Midkiff spoke of a meeting held with ARC GIS about data visualization. He noted that the belonging survey is one of the data sources. All invited to attend future meetings to discuss. Commissioner Strathdee spoke of the liaison program.
- b. **Homelessness Information Summit:** Commissioner Marshall shared this was tabled until after the recent City Council work session.
- c. **LGBTQIA+ Intersectional Rights:** Vice Chair Murray spoke of discussion about barriers to reporting within LGBTQIA+ communities at the top six locations where discrimination occurs. Tactics like training and communication to these locations was discussed.

## 6. Staff Updates:

- The Fair Housing event has been postponed.
- April 17 was affirmed as the date for the next HRC meeting.
- Gretchen received a call from a person who had contemplated reporting but was concerned that people would be able to access their personal information; this spoke to a barrier to reporting discussed at an earlier meeting.
- Gretchen made initial inquiry about citizenship status, and asked how it would be different from discrimination due to national origin. Commissioner Lara Midkiff shared an example; the group asked for this inquiry to continue.

## 7. Calendar:

Commissioner Strayer discussed upcoming events.

## 8. Member Remarks and Announcements:

Commissioner Lara Midkiff thanked guests for attending and mourned the loss of Jose and his memory and to youth who have been hospitalized in recent community violence.

Barry Lee Coyne spoke of the rights of elderly who are neglected.

*Minutes respectfully presented by staff Gretchen Bennett.*