



## MINUTES

(Approved November 17, 2021)

**MEETING:** Special Joint Meeting (virtual)

**DATE/TIME:** Wednesday, October 11, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

A special joint commission meeting, including the Commission on Refugee and Immigrant Affairs, Human Rights Commission, Landmarks Preservation Commission, Planning Commission, Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities, and the Transportation Commission, was held and hosted by the City of Tacoma's Office of Equity and Human Rights. This meeting served as the "Pilot Equity Training" for the commissions mentioned above.

### **PRESENT:**

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (CIRA):

- Patricia Flores
- Perla Gamboa
- Hieu Nguyen
- Lydia Zepeda

*The equity training did not have a quorum of the CIRA.*

Human Rights Commission (HRC):

- Courtney Acoff
- Ronita Boult
- Norman Brickhouse
- Noemi Cagatin-Porter
- C. Ivan Johnson
- Laurie Lynch
- JR Nobles
- Anita Snyder
- Verda Washington
- Amanda Westbrooke

*The equity training did have a quorum of the HRC.*

Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC):

- Kevin Bartoy
- Jonathan Hart
- Roger Johnson

*The equity training did not have a quorum of the LPC.*

Planning Commission (PC):

- Ryan Givens
- Anna Petersen
- Andrew Strobel

*The equity training did not have a quorum of PC.*

Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities (TACOD):

- Tony Hester
- Todd Holloway

*The equity training did not have a quorum of the TACOD.*

Transportation Commission (TC):

- Erin Anderson
- Gerrit Nyland
- Troy Serad

*The equity training did not have a quorum of the TC.*

### **A. Call to Order**

Lucas Smiraldo began the meeting at 4:00 p.m. and provided opening remarks regarding the pilot equity workshop.

Eric Bitten read the land acknowledgement.

### **B. Introductions**

Lucas Smiraldo, TACOD Liaison and OEHR Host, provided an overview of the TACOD.

Raeshawna Ware, CIRA Liaison, provided an overview of the CIRA.

Andreta Armstrong, HRC Liaison, provided an overview of the HRC.

Anna Petersen, Chair of the PC, provided an overview of the PC.

Jennifer Kammerzell, TC Liaison, provided an overview of the TC.

Reuben McKnight, LPC Liaison, provided an overview of the LPC.

## **C. Presentation Items**

### **1. History Leading Up to this Equity Presentation for Commissioners**

Mr. Smiraldo reviewed the City of Tacoma's movement to incorporate equity, objectives, why we are leading with race, and the current context of race.

Various commissioners, staff, and community members shared their race and a tradition of their family.

### **2. Native American Land Acknowledgement**

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

### **3. Equity Terms**

### **4. History of Systemic Racism Video**

Mr. Smiraldo introduced the film, "How We Got Here: A Reckoning" ([https://youtu.be/bsRW81F\\_zR0](https://youtu.be/bsRW81F_zR0)).

Commissioners watched part 1 of the film.

### **5. Opportunity for Commissioner Reflections**

Commissioners broke into breakout rooms to discuss reflections of the film, noting events, policies, feelings, and relevance.

Commissioners watched part 2 of the film.

Commissioners broke into breakout rooms to discuss additional reflections, noting what was surprising and what is important for others to know.

JR Nobles outlined the discussion in his breakout room, noting the reflection of the film, and the great opportunity to implement an equity tool across the City that decisions and actions are filtered through.

Mr. McKnight outlined the discussion in his breakout room, noting that these things are still happening to this day and the importance of keeping in mind that there are populations that continue to perpetuate discrimination.

Lydia Zepeda outlined the discussion in her breakout room, noting that the Latinx community was missing in the second part of the film, homelessness largely affects people of color, racism is happening today in the City of Tacoma, and reparation for black community.

Lihuang Wung outlined the discussion, noting feelings of shock and surprise and the importance of outreach, education, and information-sharing. Norman Brickhouse added comments.

Noemi Cagatin-Porter outlined the discussion in her group, noting that discrimination is still occurring.

Mr. Smiraldo outline the discussion in his group, noting accumulative trauma for people of color, dealing with racism, and anger regarding the lack of changed, how complaints are made, and reconciliation and reparation for black community.

The meeting recessed at 6:18 p.m., and reconvened at 6:25 p.m.

### **6. History and Implication of Resolution 40622**

Lora Proctor and Mr. Smiraldo facilitated a discussion regarding equality and equity.

Owen Robinson outline Resolution No. 40622, including the meaning of the legislation, the legislation's directive, communication for City leaders, and introduced the "Are you racist? 'No' isn't a good enough answer" video (<https://youtu.be/jm5DWa2bpbs>).

### **7. Applying Racial and Other Forms of Equity to Commission Work**

### **8. Final Reflections and Opportunity for Commissioner Feedback**

Mr. Smiraldo asked members to think about the discussion questions, such as what are areas that CBCs might prioritize equity and anti-racism going forward, and he shared a quote from Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum. ChiQuata Elder and Angelica Garcia provided closing comments and thanked commissioners for their work.

### **D. Public Comment**

This item was not addressed.

### **E. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.