

**Human Rights Commission**  
**Business Meeting**  
**Minutes**

**February 20, 2014**

**Chair Schuneman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.**

**Commissioners Present:** Preston Anderson, Vazaskia Caldwell, Olgy Diaz, Fred Schuneman, Lucas Smiraldo, Larry Strege, John Wallace, Christopher Winters, Christina Zinkgraf

**Commissioners Absent:** Alice Currie, Richard McGrue III, Nicci Montgomery, Darion N. Reese, April Sanders

**Staff Present:** Tansy Hayward, Marya Gingrey, Tina McLeod, Vicki Walker

Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

**Agenda Approval**

Chair Schuneman called for a motion to approve the HRC Business Meeting Agenda of February 20, 2014. The motion was made, seconded, and carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the HRC meeting minutes for January 16, 2014.

**New HRC Business**

A. Selection of 2014 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Human Rights Champion Award Recipient

The 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Human Rights Champion Award Recipient of 2014 is Don Curtis.

**Chair's Report**

At the beginning of the HRC Meeting, Chair Schuneman introduced the new members of the HRC – Vazaskia Caldwell and Christina Zinkgraf.

**Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Smiraldo announced that he was hosting a free event called "Night of the Oracle" at B Sharp Coffee House on Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Smiraldo mentioned that he started a listening anthology project, which invites community members of Tacoma to talk about their "spirit of place."

Commissioner Caldwell mentioned that the Museum of History and Industry in Seattle has an exhibit that explores how the LGBTQ community in the Puget Sound region has grown and changed.

Chair Schuneman announced that there would be a free training event titled "Race: Power of Illusion" on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at Central Latino from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### **Director's Report**

Director Hayward announced that the Charter Review Committee is in the process of updating the Tacoma City Charter. They welcome feedback and input from the community.

The Human Services Commission is considering applications for the Emergency Solutions Grant.

The HRC will present at the Public Safety, Human Services and Education Committee (PSHSE) on Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. in TMB 248. This will be an opportunity to highlight accomplishments for 2013 and engage PSHSE in discussion about the HRC's 2014 work plan.

Last summer, the City of Tacoma worked with Tacoma Public Schools, Reach Center and Work Force Central in a pilot program to help students who were behind in credit retention to graduate on time. This year, the City of Tacoma wants to expand the program and is approaching local businesses and organizations as potential partners.

The City Council will hold their annual planning session on Friday, February 21, 2014 and talk about their priorities for the year.

The City Council is requesting proposals to initiate the strategic planning process to create community priorities for the 2015-2016 budget process.

The Human Services Commission is in the process of updating their strategic plan.

Councilmember Woodard requested that the City of Tacoma present a Women History's celebration in March.

The NCS Department's Code Enforcement and Compliance section is currently conducting a citywide survey to educate businesses and communities about property improvement opportunities and obligations.

In collaboration with the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Marilyn Strickland will host the 2014 State of the City Address on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. in the Hotel Murano's Venice Ballroom (1320 Broadway).

There will be a presentation at the PSHSE Committee Meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. in TMB 248 regarding community and civic health. The Tacoma Pierce County Health Department will be sharing findings from a recent community health assessment.

### **Staff Report**

Marya Gingrey discussed the HRC Strategic Plan development and plans to incorporate community input and feedback to inform that Plan.

The Human Rights Division has included community engagement within the NCS Department work-plan.

There are a variety of community groups and stakeholders working on equity within Tacoma/Pierce County. Those partners include the Russell Foundation and State Farm Insurance.

The HRC contact and demographic information has been updated pursuant to a request from the City Clerk's Office.

There are no reports of case closures.

### **Adjournment**

Business Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

### **Action Items:**

Vicki Walker - Distribute new contact list from updated spreadsheet.