

WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

3PM June 28, 2012

Evergreen State College - Longhouse

2700 Evergreen Parkway NW

Olympia, WA 98505

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners: Stephen Hunt, Chair; Shawn Murinko, Commissioner; Clarence Henderson, Commissioner.

Staff: Sharon Ortiz, Executive Director; Cheryl Strobert, Assistant Director; Laura Skinner, Executive Assistant; Sharon Payant, AAG; Suzanne Becker, AAG.

OPENING AND WELCOME

Stephen Hunt, Chair called the meeting to order at 3PM.

Welcome and introduction of new Commissioner, Clarence Henderson; Introduction of Sharon Payant, AAG, who will HRC's temporary advice attorney; Introduction of Suzanne Becker, AAG, who has been appointed our prosecuting attorney for litigations.

MINUTES

May 24, 2012 Meeting Minutes were not approved; did not have quorum of Commissioners who attended the May Commission meeting; minutes to be approved at the July 26, 2012 Commission meeting.

CASE CLOSURES

Chair Hunt had concerns about case Pratt v. Trapper's Copper Silver River Salmon Smoking Company; Respondent's behavior towards employees; Technical assistance may be needed.

Chair Hunt called for motion to approve case closures; Commissioner Murinko made motion; Commissioner Henderson seconded; motion carried.

ED REPORT

Director Ortiz stated June is the end of the fiscal year; HRC is purchasing supplies and updating technology; completed all the rule making workgroups throughout the state; HRC conducted a public hearing in Pasco and planned the two day training for staff at the

Evergreen State College Longhouse, conducted part of the training along with staff and special guest trainer, William Tamayo, EEOC; preparing for the annual HUD audit, HRC is meeting the projected case closures; completed the first testing contract with the Fair Housing Center of Washington, HRC awarded \$128,000 to conduct fair housing testing in Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties, the state will own the results and can initiate complaints when discrimination is found; spoke at a vigil on May 30,2012 for the Brisenia Flores and her father Raul who were killed in a hate crime in Arizona; attended several meetings throughout the past month.

From Cheryl Strobert, Assistant Director: EEOC teams again made great progress towards contract obligations for the month of May, 71 cases were closed; HUD contract for fiscal year ends in June; HUD team closed 8 cases for May, we closed approximately 117 cases by the end of June; HRC staff closed 19 non contract cases; out of all cases closed, 3 cases were settled totaling \$10,473.

COMMISSIONER REPORTING

Chair Hunt expressed disappointment on the attendance at the June 20,2012 rule making workgroup held in Seattle and at the Tri Cities public forum held on May 24, 2012; stated it was nothing that the Commission did wrong, need to publicize events better.

Commissioner Murinko participated in the June 6, 2012 work group meeting with Laura Lindstrand, policy analyst, regarding sexual orientation and gender identity; stated it was not well attended by public and stakeholders; staff that attended was Dean Hirst and Laurie Rasmussen.

Chair Hunt went over the expectations of the Commission; reaching out to the public and employers to provide education and outreach; need to educate Legislature; stated Commissioners and HRC staff need to be unbiased and recues themselves if they know Complainant and/or Respondent to eliminate any conflict of interest

Commissioner Henderson expressed need to know names of Respondents to be able to recues himself.

Chair Hunt expressed all Commissioners know when the meetings are and need to be present at meetings.

ACTION ITEMS

Thank you letter for Tri Cities Participants and report for website re: public forum: Letters to participants will be sent on behalf of the Commission using Chair Hunt's signature.

Commissioners and Director Ortiz discussed future forum planning; take into consideration the participant's availability of meeting times; discussed web site and updates of reports and meeting minutes.

REVIEW OF COMMISSIONER POLICIES

Director Ortiz went over Commission policies to vacate and update; Commissioner Murinko and Director Ortiz to update policy model for public forums.

Chair Hunt to approve travel/ outreach; Commissioners need to email Chair for approval; Attendance Policy Commissioners need to adhere by; Commissioners need to review all policies for next Commission meeting regarding changes and/or revisions; if Commissioners see policy that needs to be put into place discuss at next meeting.

Chair Hunt discussed WAC for November and December Commission meetings; November and December meeting will be combined and held on December 13, 2012 at 9:30am; conference call meeting can be held at later date for HUD closures; August Commission meeting, WAC states no meeting to be held; Director Ortiz suggested conference call to approve cases; meeting will be held on August 23, 2012 at 9:30am.

Chair Hunt calls to vote on policies that are out dated; Rules of Order & Procedure, Policy Concerning Committees of the Commission; Policy concerning the charging of committees; Policy concerning study sessions of the Commissioners; Policy on Executive Director annual review protocol.

Director Ortiz commented the policy on Rules of Order & Procedure is still in place; Executive Assistant, Laura Skiuner, to add that to current Commission Policy hand book.

Chair Hunt called to motion to rescind policies; Commissioner Murinko motions; Commissioner Henderson seconds; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Hunt called Executive Session; Director Ortiz and AAG Payant explained why to call Executive Session, personnel issues, agency enforcement actions, legal advice, and litigation of cases; explained process, agenda and minutes have to reflect that Executive Session will be called at meeting; Commissioner Henderson and AAG Payant read the RCW on Executive Sessions; Director Ortiz stated Executive Session is always on the agenda however, to call the session it has to be expressed before the meeting and the purpose of why Executive Session is being called.

Commissioner Hunt commended Director Ortiz, Asst. Director Strobert and Executive Asst., Laura Skiuner, on the all staff held on June 27 and 28, 2012; well done.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:57PM.

Laura Skinner
Commission Clerk