



Public Meeting

July 21st, 2023, 10:00 am

- Welcome, technology troubleshooting, and check-ins
- Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair Figueroa at 10:07 a.m.
- Co-Chair asked for roll call
 - Commissioners present:
 - Commissioner Ebo Barton, King County
 - Commissioner Marsha Botzer, Jefferson County
 - Commissioner Lars Erickson, King County
 - Commissioner Alvaro Figueroa, Spokane County
 - Commissioner Nick Franco, Spokane County
 - Commissioner Tobi Hill-Meyer, Thurston County
 - Commissioner Mathew Landers, King County
 - Commissioner Everett Maroon, Walla Walla County
 - Commissioner Steven Sawyer, King County
 - Commissioner Jason Victor Serinus, Jefferson County
 - Senator Claire Wilson, at-large
 - Commissioners Excused:
 - Commissioner M. Kelly-Barroga, Grays Harbor County
 - Commissioner Abigayle Coleman, Clark County
 - Commissioner Leiyomi Preciado, Kitsap County
 - Representative Nicole Macri, at-large
 - Representative Skyler Rude, at-large
 - Unexcused Absences:
 - Commissioner Dustin Best, Okanogan County
 - Commissioner Ranulfo Molina, Skagit County
 - Commissioner Alicia Sojourner, Clark County
 - Staff:
 - J. Manny Santiago, Executive Director
 - Tracey Carlos, Program Manager
- Land acknowledgement, Housekeeping
- Adoption of Agenda for July Meeting and Acceptance of Minutes from May Meeting
 - Commissioner Botzer presents a motion to adopt the agenda for the July public meeting and receive the Minutes from the May public meeting.
 - Commissioner Serinus seconds the motion.
 - The Commission adopts the agenda and receives the Minutes with no changes.
- **Reports:**
 - **Executive Director's report**, see attached report created by J. Manny Santiago.
 - **Executive Committee:**
 - Vice-Chair Figueroa presented: nothing to report in addition to regular meetings.

- **Economic and Business Development Committee:** Commissioner Landers updates the Commission on conversations with the National LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce regarding LGBTQ certification, as well as conversations with OMWBE to move the plan to add LGBTQ certification to statewide minority-owned businesses.
- **America 250 Committee:** Commissioner Figueroa presented the report. The committee is now looking to host several celebrations and educational opportunities, including opportunities to address injustices committed throughout history.
- **Legislative Advisors:**
 - Sen. Claire Wilson offered an update on plans for 2024 legislative session. The Senator also shared about her participation, alongside LGBTQ Commissioners and others, in Pride celebration at women's prison in Gig Harbor. The Senator also shared an update on efforts to collect signatures to host a referendum to stop the implementation of SB5599, which protects the rights of minors to access gender-affirming care.
- **Commissioner Landers:** extends gratitude and recognition to the work of several Commissioners, including Botzer, Hill-Meyer, and Viena, alongside community advocates, who were able to get a gender-inclusive bathroom at SeaTac Airport. Commissioner Landers also brought to the attention of the Commission the gender-affirming care that is being done by local children hospitals and how they might be targeted by Congressional funding cuts given the recent developments in this area.
- **Commissioner Serinus:** offered an update on his work with local community groups in Jefferson County who are looking to understand better the needs of LGBTQ residents.
- **Commissioner Hill-Meyer:** shared about her participation as a speaker at the unveiling of a trans flag crosswalk in downtown Olympia.
- **Commissioner Sawyer:** spoke about his participation representing the Commission in several Pride events throughout Seattle area. Also shared about the plans for Black Pride, and a Town Hall to listen to the needs and concerns of the Black LGBTQ community in King County, scheduled for August and done in collaboration between the Commission, POCAAN, and other local organizations.
- **Budget and Legislative Priorities Update**
 - Director Santiago offered an update on the budget requests and on the legislative work of the Commission. Currently, staff is working with contracts department to draft a request for proposals to conduct a comprehensive LGBTQ survey. This RFP is expected to be public in mid-August. Additionally, Director Santiago is reviewing applications for the position of Executive Assistant and interviews as scheduled for July 31st. Finally, during this meeting, the Commission will be creating a taskforce to work specifically on creating the LGBTQ Youth Advisory Board for the Office of the Governor.
- **Action:**
 - Commissioner Franco motions to amend the agenda to allow for more time for discussion on values for the Commission.
 - Commissioner Serinus seconded the motion.
 - The motion passes and the agenda is amended.
- **Discussion**

- After lunch, the Commissioners gather in small groups to discuss the values they want to uphold as a state agency.
- The Commission receives mini-reports from each group, creating a draft list of values by which the Commission will conduct its business. The values shared by all groups are:
 - Respect
 - Intersectionality
 - Positionality
 - Community
 - Commitment
 - Centering Blackness
 - Centering the most marginalized
 - Creation of systems for the most marginalized
 - Safety/sage space/brave space
 - Support
 - Humor
 - Humility
 - Curiosity
 - Power with
 - Valuing the work over the position
 - Access
 - Collaboration
 - Justice
- After discussion, Serinus volunteered to draft a Values Statement informed by these values as well as the notes each group wrote down. This statement will be presented for adoption at the next public meeting.
- **Other Business**
 - **Appointments to Workgroups and Committees**
 - Governor's Subcabinet on Business Diversity
 - Commissioner Erickson agrees to represent the Commission in this group.
 - Governor's Workgroup on Poverty Reduction
 - Commissioner Barton agrees to be considered for the office of Co-Chair of this workgroup. (Director Santiago will follow up with Workgroup's staff to confirm.)
 - LGBTQ Youth Advisory Board for the Office of the Governor
 - Commissioner Franco motions that a Taskforce be created to work on establishing an LGBTQ Youth Advisory Board for the Office of the Governor consisting of Commissioners Kelly-Barroga, France, Figueroa, Maroon, and (upon confirmation) Coleman.
 - Commissioner Landers seconded the motion
 - The motion passes unanimously, and a Taskforce is established
 - **Election of Officers**
 - Commissioner Maroon explains the process to elect a new Co-Chair to fill the vacancy left by former Commissioner Viena whose term ended

- Vice-Chair Figueroa calls for nominations
 - Commissioner Maroon reaffirms his interest in running for the position
 - With no other candidates, and upon unanimous vote, Commissioner Maroon is elected as Co-Chair of the Commission effective immediately.
- **Discussion on Accountability**
 - Director Santiago shared some concerns and challenges Commission staff experience. Currently, the staff and Executive Committee have offered a lot of flexibility in regards of attendance and accountability. However, beginning this fiscal year, they will be following the Operating Agreements more closely, which includes asking the resignation of any Commission with two unexcused absences. Commissioners and staff also shared about the difficulty of accessing Commission-issued email accounts. Staff will follow up with IT and individual Commissioners to address these issues.
- **Community Groups Presentations**
 - The Commission welcomed the following community groups and representatives to present their projects and their work:
 - Blue Mountain Heart to Heart – Commissioner Maroon is Executive Director, staff member Crystal Chi presented
 - Planned Parenthood – staff member Dylan Posos and medical provider presented
- **Public Comment**
 - The Commission received two comments from the public.
- **Adjournment**
 - Commissioner Botzer presents a motion to adjourn the July public meeting of the LGBTQ Commission.
 - Commissioner Franco seconds the motion.
 - The Commission unanimously votes to adjourn the July public meeting.
 - Vice-Chair Figueroa adjourns the meeting at 4:45 p.m.