



WASHINGTON STATE
LGBTQ
COMMISSION

Public Meeting

November 17th, 2023

Bellingham, Whatcom County

- Welcome, technology troubleshooting, and check-ins
- Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair Kelly-Barroga at 10:03 a.m.
- Co-Chair asked for roll call
 - Commissioners present:
 - Commissioner Ebo Barton, King County
 - Commissioner Dustin Best, Okanogan County
 - Commissioner Abigayle Coleman, Clark County
 - Commissioner Lars Erickson, King County
 - Commissioner Alvaro Figueroa, Spokane County
 - Commissioner Nick Franco, Spokane County
 - Commissioner M. Kelly-Barroga, Grays Harbor County
 - Commissioner Tobi Hill-Meyer, Thurston County
 - Commissioner Mathew Landers, King County
 - Commissioner Everett Maroon, Walla Walla County
 - Commissioner Leiyomi Preciado, Kitsap County
 - Commissioner Steven Sawyer, King County
 - Commissioner Jason Victor Serinus, Jefferson County
 - Commissioner Alicia Sojourner, Clark County
 - Senator Claire Wilson, at-large (joined later)
 - Commissioners Excused:
 - Representative Nicole Macri, at-large
 - Representative Skyler Rude, at-large
 - Unexcused Absences:
 - Commissioner Ranulfo Molina, Skagit County
 - Staff:
 - J. Manny Santiago, Executive Director
 - Sawyer Tuttle, Executive Assistant
- Land acknowledgement, Housekeeping
- Adoption of Agenda for November Meeting and Minutes from September meeting
 - Commissioner Maroon presents a motion to adopt the agenda for the November meeting and Minutes from September meeting as corrected.
 - Commissioner Coleman seconds the motion.
 - The Commission adopts the agenda and Minutes with changes.
- **Reports:**
 - **Executive Director's report**, see attached report created by J. Manny Santiago.

- **America 250 Committee:** Commissioner Figueroa presented the report. The committee is hiring part a time staff. The next meeting will be on the first quarter of 2024.
- **Council on Health Disparities:** Commissioner Hill-Meyer presents the report. The Council did not meet prior to the Commission meeting.
- **Poverty Reduction Group:** Commissioner Barton presents the report. The group has met twice for updates, but no new business.
- **Commissioner Kelly-Barroga:** updates that Oasis Youth Center is now an official 501c3. The organization is now focused on strengthening their finance situation after the fiasco with PCAF's internal mismanagement of funds.
- **Commissioner Landers:** shares about his experience with the German Marshall Fellowship and his recent tour of Europe with the fellowship. He hopes to connect some of the LGBTQ advocates met in Europe with the Commission for future partnerships.
- **Commissioner Best:** he has been involved with the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People movement to raise awareness of the many Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer people missing.
- **Commissioner Maroon:** participated of a convening hosted by the Center for Children and Youth Justice in Walla Walla, where he promoted the LGBTQ Youth Advisory Council. He also shared the news of former Commissioner Jeffrey Robinson's election to the Walla Walla City Council as the first out gay man to be elected.
- **Commissioner Hill-Meyer:** is following up on her work with the City of Olympia conducting a community assessment around experiences of discrimination. A full report is expected next year. Currently, around 30% of the respondents are part of the 2SLGBTQIA community, and around 10% identified as transgender.
- **Commissioner Coleman:** updates on the conversations with the LaCenter School Board Superintendent. Shares that Planned Parenthood is working with local advocates to get to the school district.
- **Commissioner Serinus:** writes a column for a local newspaper where he often writes about intersectional identity. Shares the concerns from the 2SLGBTQIA community in Jefferson County.
- **Commissioner Franco:** was participating of a Trans Day of Remembrance in Spokane.
- **Director Santiago:** shares that the Governor signed a ceremonial proclamation for Transgender Day of Remembrance upon request from the LGBTQ Commission.
- **Executive Committee:**
 - Vice-Chair Figueroa presented: nothing to report in addition to regular meetings and working on elections to be conducted during this meeting.

- **Discussion:** the Commissioners split into discussion groups, which included members of the public present, to discuss the administration's transition and how to strengthen the work of the Commission during the transition. (Notes are available upon request.)
- **Legislative Advisor:**
 - Sen. Claire Wilson offered an update upon joining the meeting after lunch.
 - Shared about a bill from Senator Lias regarding inclusive curriculum and learning standards, which will include 2SLGBTQIA history and culture as part of the standards.
 - Advised that there might be some bills related to book bans in the state. s
 - There are plans to strengthen SB5237 to ensure that schools are complying with the law.
- **Discussion:** A second round of discussions was held regarding the LGBTQ comprehensive survey. (Notes from the discussion are available upon request.)
- **Action:**
 - **Elections**
 - Commissioner Franco, as Elections Coordinator, shares the instructions for the process.
 - Co-Chair position
 - Commissioner Serinus nominates Commissioner Maroon for the position of Co-Chair. Commissioner Maroon accepts.
 - Commissioner Coleman seconds.
 - Commissioner Maroon is elected in a unanimous vote.
 - Vice-Chair position
 - Currently two candidates. During discussion, Commissioner Serinus withdraws from the election.
 - Commissioner Hill-Meyer nominates Commissioner Figueroa as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Figueroa accepts.
 - Commissioner Coleman seconds.
 - Commissioner Figueroa is elected in a unanimous vote.
 - Secretary position
 - Currently two candidates: Commissioner Best and Commissioner Landers.
 - Commissioner Serinus presents the nominations of both candidates. Both candidates accept.
 - Commissioner Barton seconds.
 - After rollcall for votes, Commissioner Landers is elected with 12 votes.
 - **Calendar of meetings for 2024**
 - After considering three options, the Commission adopts a calendar of meetings for 2024.

- **Community Groups Presentations**
 - The Commission welcomed the following community groups and representatives to present their projects and their work:
 - Bellingham Queer Collective
 - Northwest Youth Services
- **Public Comment**
 - The Commission received public comments from the following community members:
 - Eves Mason Marcus – NW Youth Service, Whatcom Pride
 - Jason Miqueal – Director of NW youth service
 - Max Keen – Co-president of Skagit Queer
- **Adjournment**
 - Commissioner Coleman presents a motion to adjourn the November public meeting of the LGBTQ Commission.
 - Commissioner Hill-Meyer seconds the motion.
 - The Commission unanimously votes to adjourn the November public meeting.
 - Co-Chair Kelly-Barroga adjourns the meeting at 5:00 p.m.