

Kitsap County Council for Human Rights MINUTES

Tuesday, September 19, 6:30-8 PM Meeting
At Eagle's Nest at Bremerton Fairgrounds and Zoom

The **Mission of the Kitsap County Council for Human Rights** is twofold:

1. To advise county government and Kitsap County community on issues related to discrimination, violence and harassment based on race or national origin, religion, age, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, or economic status, and
2. To promote equitable treatment of all people and reduce prejudice through education, resource referrals, and advocacy.

	Name	Position*		Name	Position*
P	Dionne Deschenne, <i>Chair</i>	D1 – P1	T	Elizabeth Holmes	D3 – P1
P	Erin Lanum, <i>Secretary</i>	D1 – P2	E	Cris Amburgey	D3 – P2
T	Judy Friesem	D1 – P3	E	Kirsten Dahlquist	D3 – P3
E	Melisa Wight	D1 – P4	P	Shannae Peters	D3 – P4
T	Christina Barone	D2 – P1	P	Augustine Lujan, <i>Vice Chair</i>	At-large
T	Rochelle Karlsen	D2 – P2		<i>Vacant</i>	At-large
P	Jim Manlove	D2 – P3	P	Nicola D'Anella	At-large
	<i>Vacant</i>	D2 – P4	P	Rebecca Pirtle	County Admin.

***Note on Positions:** Commissioner for District 1 Christine Rolfes; District 2 Charlotte Garrido; District 3 Katie Walters.

Attendance: P – present T – present by technology E – absent excused U – absent unexcused

1) Called to Order @ 6:32pm

2) Approved Agenda: Jim motioned, and Nicola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3) Group Agreements – read due to our new member and guest present.

4) Centering moment – Erin read a poem by Brandy Nālani McDougall called *Water Remembers* an environmental justice poem. Chris B. will provide at October meeting and Cris A. will provide in December or January.

5) New member introductions: Shannae “Shay” Peters is a Care Coordinator and Counselor for Kitsap Mental Health Services (KMH), Chair of Equity and Inclusion Committee at KMH, member of Kitsap Suicide Awareness Coalition, and was the Vendor Coordinator for Juneteenth in 2023. Mental health and suicide awareness/prevention is her passion. Being part of the Human Rights Council felt fitting for her and she is excited to be here.

6) Guest introductions, comments, or announcements: Guest Kyle Simons sat in on our meeting this evening.

7) Approval of Minutes from previous meeting – August 15, 2023: Elizabeth motioned; Nicola seconded. Rochelle and Dionne abstained. Minutes from the previous meeting passed.

8) Old Business

o **Committee Reports –**

- **Communications:** Did not meet this month. The committee is waiting on approval from the County Prosecutors’ Office where it is being reviewed. Dionne is working on a resource page for dispersal at the upcoming forum. She’ll send it to the Council so others can add to it.
- **Events:** Speakers for the forum have been confirmed. Erin created the invitation flyer. Nicola provided background on the topic of this forum for our new member. This forum is co-hosted by NAACP Bremerton and is for local organizations involved in improving the situation for Latiné students and their families in North Kitsap School District to share skills on how to communicate constructively. The Council discussed whether to make this a hybrid meeting since the room has a max capacity of 50 and is likely going to be full as a result of our targeted invites. It will likely not be due to tech constraints.
- **Nominating 2024 officers:** Jim plans to have conversations with current officers to discuss potential candidates for 2024. Everyone is asked to send Jim and email with their nominations within the next 6 weeks. One can also self-nominate.

o **Ad hoc committee reports**

- **NKSD Situation:** North Kitsap was found to be largely compliant with school policies but there is “room for improvement,” with multiple areas outlined. NAACP did meet with the School Board again. The hope is changes are made and evident within the 2023-2024 school year. KCCHR will continue to track this situation. Updates on other school boards: Dr. Crawford, the Superintendent of Bremerton School District is considering joining a National Civic League sponsored cohort to help spread good practices for inclusion, equity, and a safe environment for all students. Central Kitsap School District is under fire for seeming to restrict posters in support of LGBTQIA+ community and then allowing distribution of T-shirts with anti-LGBTQIA+ messages. The Council will observe and follow this situation. Many admins from CKSD work with Kitsap Strong so there is a concerted effort within the district to address what’s happening there.
- **Comprehensive Plan:** Recent meeting had a strong contingent from DCD and good conversations were had. All pieces that the KCCHR committee had wanted addressed were (such as equity, climate change, affordable housing). Kirsten asked a lot of tough questions, and they were answered. New feedback, notes, new direction from WA Department of Commerce, public comment, and new legislation are going to be incorporated into what the County proposes as three alternative plans. Since there is new climate change guidance from WA DOC, and housing, it is taking longer than intended, so the three draft plan proposals will be released in mid-December now. This KCCHR subcommittee will review them when available and ensure that what they brought up is in the new drafts and provide feedback.
- **Event Reports**
- **August meeting with the County Commissioners:** The consensus from those KCCHR members present were that it was a good meeting, that the conversation went well, that the Commissioners seemed receptive and interested, and that the Council received good guidance from them. The Commissioners want to continue to receive reports from the community right after our regularly scheduled meeting rather than wait for the meeting minutes to be approved. KCCHR will meet with them twice a year. March and August may be the best for the Council.
- **Linda Gabriel Awards:** Erin proposed that instead of meeting at our regularly scheduled time in December, and since we are not hosting an annual conference this year, that we hold a Linda Gabriel Awards ceremony on the day that we would have held the conference. That day is the Saturday closest to the International Day of Human Rights (December 10th). The Council agreed to this and that it should be held in the afternoon on Saturday, December 9th. The Council will meet just prior to the ceremony to do elections for 2024 officers. The Communications Committee will take on the LG Awards nominations process and the Events Committee will find a location for the event and make needed arrangements. Rebecca will send a call out for Linda Gabriel Award nominations and then KCCHR will vote by email since the regularly scheduled October meeting will likely precede receipt of the nominations. It was agreed that we will cancel our November meeting due to its proximity to Thanksgiving and since we usually take a month off every year and have not yet done so.

9) New Business

- **New reports from community:**
 - Concerns continue to be received regarding ongoing issues in the Kitsap school districts. These are already known issues and primarily involve complaints of racism within NKSD and the District’s unresponsiveness to those complaints, and within CKSD involve hateful actions toward LGBTQ+ students and family members and reports that there is disparity in how these are handled as opposed to actions taken to support those families. The Council agreed to continue to attend school board meetings as able, in person or via Zoom, to stay abreast of developments and to continue outreach efforts.
 - Calls were received from community members upset about the County Commissioners’ most recent appointment of Greg Nance as 23rd Legislative District Representative - they were encouraged to express their grievance directly with those who made the appointment.
- **Equity training:** Rebecca shared the upcoming equity training being offered to county advisory group members on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and since KCCHR is among those who asked for this, it is the hope that everyone will sign up and attend.

10) Next meeting: October 17, 2023 at 6:30 PM at Eagle’s Nest and via Zoom

11) Adjourned @ 7:43pm

Submitted by Secretary Erin Lanum