

Kitsap County Council for Human Rights MINUTES

Tuesday, June 21, 2022, 6:30-8 PM Meeting

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86039566803> Meeting ID: 860 3956 6803 By phone: 253-215-8782

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.

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

	Name	Position*		Name	Position*
E	Annie Forsman Adams	D1 – P1		Vacant	D3 – P1
P	Erin Lanum, <i>Secretary</i>	D1 – P2		Vacant	D3 – P2
P	Dionne Deschenne, <i>Chair</i>	D1 – P3	P	Elizabeth Holmes	D3 – P3
P	Judy Friesem	D1 – P4	P	Marlaina Simmons	D3 – P4
P	Beth Barron	D2 – P1	E	Barbara Golden	At-large
P	Farris Hovater	D2 – P2	P	Gregg Nebel	At-large
	Vacant	D2 – P3	P	Susie Beil, <i>Vice Chair</i>	At-large
P	Christina Barone	D2 – P4	P	Rebecca Pirtle	County Admin.

*Note on Positions: Commissioner for District 1 Rob Gelder; District 2 Charlotte Garrido; District 3 Ed Wolfe.

1) Call to Order - @ 6:31PM

2) Approve Agenda - Judy motioned for approval, Chris seconded. Passed unanimously.

3) Land Acknowledgement Statement - Read by Marlaina.

4) Group Agreements - Read by Judy, Susie, and Elizabeth

5) Centering moment - provided by Marlaina - “The First Thing I Learned as a Monk”, a video. “Every moment, every change is defined by your breath.” Speaker indicates that all individuals are taught how to breathe in meaningful and healthy ways. Speaker notes that the monks learn that “the only thing that is with you from when you are born, until you die is your breath.” Priority should be spent on the root of things.

- Who will provide next month? - Elizabeth Holmes

6) Approval of Minutes from previous meeting – May 17, 2022 - Elizabeth motioned for approval, Chris seconded. Passed unanimously.

7) New Member introductions - No new members at this time.

8) Guest introductions, comments, or announcements (three minutes each) - Susan Griggs - local pastor, part of Kitsap ERACE, local League of Women Voters Equity Chair. Maria Fergus - parent of a local youth, past member of the KCCHR, member of the NK school equity council. Brian Fergus - concerned citizen. Ace Haynes - Running for 23rd House Representative seat.

9) Old Business

- North Kitsap schools – community members may be attending - **Maria** concerned about the viability of the North Kitsap School District equity council due to attempts to disband the council. No support from North Kitsap School District. Third-party consultant used as point of contact rather than School District directly. Membership has dropped from the equity council due to frustrations and stonewalling. Reached out to superintendent. Continued conversations resulted in the response that staff would be

addressing these issues internally. Equity council has been removed from the website. Maria feels as though many organizations are pulling out of equity work over the last year. **Susan** endorsed concerns of an all-white school administration making unilateral decisions regarding diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion. When issues are addressed through systemic means, such as sending emails and attempting to open up lines of communication, community members are dismissed or misdirected. School now saying it is end of year, so there will be no further discussion or response until school resumes next fall. **Brian** expressed that “if we’re not taking care of our kids, we’re not taking care of our future.” Indicates that a community member reported significant concerns about a School District program and failures of the system there. Rebecca shared that Kingston Community Advisory Council now has a team working with the NKSD youth. The Council members asked questions of the guests to better understand the background of the situation.

- Request of the Council - address a letter to the North Kitsap School District leadership to address concerns. They want KCCHR to help protect the NKSD Equity Council by preventing it from being eliminated or disabled.
- Potential action items:
 - Potentially opening a channel of communication with the Commissioners, as the KCCHR mission does indicate “[advising] county government” as one of its roles.
 - Training around the formation of equity councils
 - KCCHR will research and follow-up as appropriate
 - Research and write letter making recommendations
 - Check with ERACE Coalition to see if they are involved in the schools
- Juneteenth Event - Tabling event on Saturday was meaningful: Rebecca, Judy, Marlaina, and Susie were present. Rebecca did a lot of coordination. Judy created excellent display board. Susie reports that it was an energizing and enjoyable day. Guest **Ace** indicated that the Bainbridge Island Juneteenth event was enjoyable and hopes that the event becomes annual for the community.
- Reports
 - Conference Committee - written report submitted – additionally, still working to articulate theme and format for the conference.
 - Outreach Committee - Juneteenth event update.
 - Report Committee - written report will be submitted - additionally, new task to coordinate with the Outreach Committee to discuss survey options and opportunities to gather data.
- Planning for 2022 monthly meetings - in-person is now an option. Hybrid is strongly recommended by the state to improve accessibility to the community. Some difficulties with finding a place to meet, as some places are still closed to public meetings
 - Mixed emotions, though flexibility via hybrid appears to be preferred to mitigate risk regarding COVID-19 and accessibility and to remain responsive, despite constant changes in outbreak status.
 - Get possible locations to Rebecca by July 1st.
 - Make statement that hybrid or in-person meetings will not be done by this Committee until September 1st.

10) New Business

- New brochure - overall, new brochure is a hit! More detailed. Some feedback from the community re: the brochure, the equity image has been updated. Typo to be corrected.
- Community survey - current informal survey that has approximately two questions on it, functioning similarly to a “suggestion box.”
- For next agenda:
 - Develop the relationship between the Commissioners and the Council.

11) Next meeting: July 19, 2022 at 6:30 PM

12) Adjourn - @ 8:04 PM

Submitted by Elizabeth Holmes