

Kitsap County Council for Human Rights

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 6:30-8 PM Meeting

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.

	Name	Position*		Name	Position*
P	Annie Forsman Adams	D1 – P1	P	Cris Amburgey	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
	Vacant	D2 – P1	U	Barbara Golden	At-large
E	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.

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

1) Called to Order @ 6:31pm

2) Approved Agenda: Cris motioned to approve agenda as written, Judy seconded, and the motion carried with unanimous support.

3) Land Acknowledgement Statement (see below) – Susie read

4) Group Agreements - (see below) skipped due to full agenda

5) Centering moment – Cris read a poem by Antonio Machado.

- **Who will provide next month?** No one volunteered, so Councilors are invited to reach out later.

6) Approval of Minutes from previous meeting – August 16, 2022: Gregg caught an attendance error. Gregg motioned to approve the previous meeting's minutes with the amendment. Susie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

7) New Member introductions – No new members

8) Guest introductions, comments, or announcements (three minutes each) – Kirsten Dahlquist was present, resides in the Bremerton area, and has submitted an application to become a new Council member. Kirsten wanted to observe a meeting. Thadeus Smith was present. He grew up in this area and will be conducting a community project called “Listening Tour” around Kitsap County, via AmeriCorps and the County Commissioners office, to discuss ideas of community with the focus on “relationships first”. Conversations will be broad, 15-20 minutes, and will be had with organizations, government officials, change makers, and residents. Thadeus is scheduled to speak at Kitsap SURJ's meeting next month. A final report will conclude the Listening Tour project and be ready on December 6th. Judy mentioned how the theme of our conference this year centers around community, and we discussed the potential for Thadeus to present the findings of the “Listening Tour” there.

9) Old Business

- **Land Acknowledgement Statements-** We discussed the history of land acknowledgements, their purpose, and why the Council has wanted to examine this subject more deeply for over a year. Land acknowledgements may have started out with good intentions, but many now experience them as performative and they often feel more like a box is being checked. The land acknowledgement statement the Council uses was created and provided by the Suquamish Tribal

Council. Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe has not provided a land acknowledgement to the Council. The Council for Human Rights' members collectively feel we ought to reexamine land acknowledgements and our reading them to ensure the effect is positive. The Council feels it is important to engage both tribes in Kitsap County on the subject, so a small team will reach out to the tribes. Further discussion takeaways: 1. It is important to be looking at issues through the lens of how our local tribes may be affected; 2. It is more important to build relationships with the tribes and follow their lead on perspectives and issues important to them; 3. We will ask/host local tribal members/leadership to present/share/speak at a forum, the conference(s), to the Council, etc. to learn more and explore providing them with honoraria/compensation for their time; and 4. The Council voted to discontinue inclusion of the Suquamish Tribe's land acknowledgement reading on our monthly agenda for the time being, while we conduct our outreach efforts. Ultimately, while the land acknowledgements can feel grounding and be a sincere gesture or practice, it is more substantial to actively listen, engage, and build respectful and supportive relationships with the tribes and tribal peoples.

- **Report from August 31 meeting with County Commissioners-** Commissioners invite the Council to come back and consider meeting 2-3 times per year. The current plan is to meet with them in February or March, and then August or September.
- **Reports – Outreach, Conference and Report Committees -** Nothing more was shared beyond what was provided via written reports.
- **Conference Planning update and decisions-** After candid discussion of the options of in-person versus virtual conference, Cris motioned that we host the Conference virtually this year. Elizabeth seconded. 8 Councilors voted yay, 1 nay, and 1 abstained. The motion carried and thus the 2022 Kitsap County Annual Conference for Human Rights will be virtual this year.
- **Monthly meetings – plan for rest of 2022 and January Retreat-** Rebecca has reserved the Eagle's Nest room at the Kitsap County Fair Grounds for us to resume our monthly council meetings in-person, when we determine to do so. Our October meeting will be held via Zoom, and there we will discuss and vote on when to resume in-person meetings.
- **Statement on protecting reproductive rights-** The Council ran out of time to cover this topic, so it will be moved to the October agenda.
- **Update on revised Work Plan (see attached)-** The Council ran out of time to cover this topic, so it will be moved to the October agenda.

11) New Business –

- **Potential changes to standard meeting format-** The Council ran out of time to cover this topic, so it will be moved to the October agenda.
- **The work of this Council with community members when concerns brought to the Council-** The Council ran out of time to cover this topic, so it will be moved to the October agenda.

12) Next meeting: October 18, 2022 at 6:30 PM

13) Adjourned @ 8:02pm

Minutes prepared by the Secretary, Erin Lanum