

Kitsap County Council for Human Rights MINUTES

Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 6:30-8 PM Meeting
At Eagle’s Nest at Bremerton Fairgrounds and at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86039566803> Meeting ID: 860 3956 6803. 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	Dionne Deschenne, <i>Chair</i>	D1 – P1	P	Elizabeth Holmes	D3 – P1
P	Erin Lanum, <i>Secretary</i>	D1 – P2	E	Marlaina Simmons, <i>Vice Chair</i>	D3 – P2
P	Judy Friesem	D1 – P3	P	Cris Amburgey	D3 – P3
P	Melisa Wright	D1 – P4	P	Kirsten Dahlquist	D3 – P4
P	Christina Barone	D2 – P1	T	Augustine Lujan	At-large
T	Rochelle Karlsen	D2 – P2	T	Bob Ellis	At-large
P	Jim Manlove	D2 – P3	P	Nicola D’Anella	At-large
	Vacant	D2 – P4	P	Rebecca Pirtle	County Admin.

***Note on Positions:** Commissioner for District 1 Rob Gelder; 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 @ 6:30pm**
- 2) **Approved Agenda** – Judy motioned, Jim seconded. Passed unanimously.
- 3) **Group Agreements** - were read by the group.
- 4) **Centering moment** – Provided by Judy. Take a breath. Read a piece by Karen Holden *The Hardest Part is People*. Who will provide at June meeting?: Melisa will.
- 5) **Approval of Minutes from previous meeting – April 18, 2023** – Elizabeth motioned, Cris seconded. Passed unanimously.
- 6) **New Member introductions** - Nicola D’Anella, an at-large member, and Melisa Wright from District 1. Both are eager to make a difference.
- 7) **Guest introductions, comments, or announcements (three minutes each)** - Gary Lindstrom - Been in Kitsap since 1996 and realtor since 2001. Getting ready to retire and wants to do some good in the area and help people. Clients have encountered situations he is not excited about.
- 8) **Old Business**
 - o **Committee Reports**
 - **Forum planning-** Sign-up sheet of tasks was passed around for Councilors to assist during the forum, coming up on May 24th. The League of Women Voters (LWV) will be there and will pass out 3x5 cards and pencils to get questions from the audience. Councilors helping with set-up should arrive at 4:30pm. We will have a post-event reception for 15-30 minutes max, to allow everyone to mingle. LWV annual meeting was today, May 16th, and more volunteers were asked to attend. There should be a healthy number of volunteers there to assist KCCHR. Our pamphlets were updated by Kirsten and the Communications Committee and can now be brought to all our events. Rebecca will print off copies.
 - **Committee work process-** Ideas should be generated within the committees and then the minutes and reports get sent out to everyone. Anything that requires a decision gets brought to the main Council meeting and then is voted upon. This process is also designed to reduce emails that go out to the whole Council. Committee Chairs will be

creating a list of action items at the end of reports. It was brought up that we should brainstorm topics and possible dates for the next forum to begin planning and sharing.

- **Committees List-** Nicola will attend both committee meetings and see what she wants to do/join. No one had any questions.
- **Event Reports-** Please provide reports from community events and community organization meetings that we attend to share with the Council.
- **Kitsap group collaborations-** Cris is involved w/ SURJ. Augie is official liaison who meets with Latiné group (under KAIRE) that is working with NKSD a lot right now. ERACE Coalition meetings - we still need someone to attend. Nicola may be able to, others will see if they can.
- **Event List and upcoming events-** Kitsap SURJ dinner on May 23rd, our forum on Wednesday May 24th, NAACP Town Hall regarding NKSD issues on May 25th, Juneteenth on Saturday June 17th, and Kitsap PRIDE on Saturday July 22nd.
- **Update on NKSD-** Augie, Erin and Dionne are meeting with Dr. Evans tomorrow, Wednesday May 17th. Goal is to ask questions and listen. We want to hear what their thinking is, what they are planning, and we are looking at this like an info gathering meeting. What happened with Equity Committee? They will provide a report to the Council on that meeting. "I want us to think about what we want to accomplish...", says Dionne, as we live in a seriously divided climate and if what we want is a safer place/experience for kids, then we need to prioritize communication, listening and creating real change in policies and practices.
Accessibility is another point we want to cover during the meeting with the Superintendent. Jim tried to get his name on the NKSD board meeting list at 4:30pm precisely but couldn't, so slots get filled up quickly. On Thursday there is another NKSD Board meeting and there is an organized protest that day. King5 News is reportedly attending. We may want to form an ad hoc committee if this issue warrants that move, and we can certainly receive a motion to form one if it becomes clear we need one.
The NK School Board did agree to do a Town Hall in Poulsbo, hosted by the local NAACP chapter, but a location has not been decided. This will take place on May 25th at 6:30pm. The Poulsbo Police Chief will be there.

9) New Business

- **Reports from community-** Chris mentioned that there was a knife threat at an NK school and the parents didn't know about it until the following Monday. There was also a situation with staff in her department (Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's Court Services Department) whose daughter was suspended, and her parents didn't find out until the end of day - she spent all day in the office with the principal. Reports of other human rights-related incidents are happening from Central Kitsap School District, maybe a couple per month, and mostly regarding assaults on the LGBTQIA+ community. Rochelle is writing a letter from her position on the LWV about bullying, racism, and encouraging people to run for school board positions. Rebecca mentioned that it is mental health awareness month. Nicola is helping to organize a conference with city planners. They are advocating for the types of housing that are needed. Dionne noted that in a recent KPHD Equity Cohort meeting the need for accessible 1-story housing was stressed by many. If anyone has input or questions that ought to be posed to the city planners, legislators and WA realtors who will be in attendance, send them to Nicola.
 - **Comprehensive Planning** – The County's work on the Comprehensive Plan is proceeding. Has the Council looked at the work through the lens of human rights or equity? Kirsten will review the Plan and see if there is a need for us to do so. If there is, she will advise and an ad hoc committee may be formed to assess and provide input to the County and Commissioners.
- **Meeting planning – Plan for June, which meeting to forego in 2023-** After discussion, the June meeting will be via Zoom only so we can continue to discuss these topics and their developments, and the Juneteenth and Kitsap Pride events. A meeting later in the year will be foregone to give members a break when not so many issues are requiring our attention.
- **Succession planning – 2024 officers-** We need to plan for this as the Chair and Secretary's current service period expires at the end of this year, so whoever is interested is urged to let us know. We need to form a Nomination Committee to nominate candidates for officer positions for 2024.
- **Email use** – Please try to minimize emails and be sure to do committee work within the committees. Committees should bring ideas and materials to meetings for discussion and

decisions. Only time sensitive announcements should be sent via email in the interim between meetings.

- **Council's Vision, Mission and directive** – Dionne expressed that with the current challenges within the communities that the Council is being asked to attend to, we need to keep our stated guidance in mind. The Vision and Mission of the Council were reviewed and discussed in detail. As a Council it is crucial that we remain focused on our roles: 1) *Advise* county government and community and 2) *Promote equitable treatment* and *Reduce prejudice*. The ways in which we are directed to do these are through *education, resource referrals* and *advocacy*. Advocacy is public support of a particular cause or policy. We take positions on issues, actions, policies, and incidents when they involve discrimination, violence or harassment. As individuals, we can take further action, but as a Council it is crucial that we remain objective, listen, gather information, and take action through the channels set forth for this Council – again, these are education, resource referrals and advocacy.

10) **Next meeting:** June 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM via Zoom only

11) **Adjourned** @7:55pm