

# **DRAFT MINUTES**

**Human Rights Commission**  
**Wednesday, August 9, 2019 3:00 - 6:00p.m.**  
**McKinley Arts Center**  
**925 Riverside Dr Reno, NV 89503**

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## **1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Quorum met at 3:24

Meeting called to order

Roll call - Chair Savoy, Members Sotelo, Youngs, Bond, Minera, Garfinkel and Eddings present

Quorum met, meeting proceeds

## **2. Public comment:**

No public present for comment.

## **3. Approval of agenda for possible action:**

Review of agenda:

Removal of item

Ms. Garfinkel moves to approve

Ms. Eddings seconds

All in favor.

## **4. Approving the minutes of the July meeting:**

Moved to next regular meeting.

## **5. Liaison Announcements:**

None for this meeting.

## **6. RHRC Announcements:**

Ms. Garfinkel - Fundraiser for Hello Nevada in Grad ballroom.

Chair Savoy - Washoe County and the City of Reno considering installation of monument called "Charters of Freedom" - monument of Declaration of Independence & US Constitution, for discussion of and how HRC can advise.

## **7 - None.**

## 8 - Board Discussion Items

Creation of HRC work plan - continuation of discussion from June 26 meeting

Open to discussion - is this a strategic plan? Work plan?

Ms. Garfinkel - perhaps a work plan? Better scope but very manageable size wise

Chair Savoy - are we in agreement that this is workplan? No dissent

Ms. Esparza has flipchart paper with 4 pillars of objectives, SMART goals and bylaws.

Savoy - let's read through goals, re-touch/review our personal area of focus,

CE - Brekhus used "workplan" language

When council gives guidance for a plan, HRC will come up with plan/brainstorming your plan,

RCC will approve

Brought some additional tools to help narrow down processes

This is a vision document

Review of Bylaws objectives by Chair Savoy

On call with Councilwoman Brekhus, group needs to have mechanism to decide which matters to advise on, and where bylaws goals fit within pillars.

Review by the group -

Most objectives in Education & Outreach, next is Advocacy and last in Research

Review of personal areas of focus within group members.

Chair Savoy - We want to emphasize that reaching out with cultural sensitivity and humility, that Reno wants to be inclusive and sensitive to community issues.

Ms. Eddings - Touching back on Bert's comments of inclusiveness and not alienating with language, condemning those we are trying to reach out to for the betterment of the community writ large.

Ms. Garfinkel - All of this comes to communications with the public, how to get the messaging there - no matter what is decided to work on, how do we communicate that to those who aren't there in the meetings?

Chair Savoy - What do you suggest?

Ms. Garfinkel - How does the city communicate with residents? What's most effective according to City's analysis?

Chair Savoy - What are the mechanisms already in place, for those that don't exist what can we do? How do we do that as a group with the methods as they are?

Julie Towler - Reading from originating document - communicating to both community and council, for council to advise and be advised.

Ms. Garfinkel - If we're communicating to city, we should discuss w/in Open Meeting Law for NV what's legal? Let's not put cart before the horse.

Mr. Sotelo - Obviously we're a model of other commissions/committees, how do other - signed up CAB/NABS saying hey here's what's going on - can we provide similar newsletters with agenda and items for public dissemination.

Ms. Esparza - NABS have these, Senior Services does too - once this committee has a more solid work plan we can do something similar. SnrSvcs chair provides updates to council, option for HRC to do the same.

Chair Savoy - what is it that we want to communicate to the council?

Ms. Youngs - as we work on this we want to be specific but also broad enough to have flexibility, perhaps we want to communicate? Knowing that the chair can go to RCC perhaps we come up with outlines for presentations for HRC to communicate. Just being present can prompt additional interaction and opportunity for advisement  
Regarding the education pillar - it's education for both HRC members and the public - thinking about ED's of groups and let the HRC know what is happening, what the HRC needs to be aware of within the community.

Mr. Bond - I have a lot of free time, am a regular at council and will happily serve as a liaison between HRC and council, has been there often and familiar with meetings and procedure. Really want to see something done, not just a council that meets but produces no action. I want people to know that we are here.

Mr. Savoy - Certainly we can take advantage of Bond's presence at RCC. Yes, to courtney's point, take the initiative to make yourselves relevant and grab RCC's notice via action. What is there's a forum for RCC to have concerns addressed by HRC? Secondly is there a way for us to communicate without quorum; can there be a portal for members of the public to address us?

Ms Garfinkel - Can we formalize relationships with other groups or have a portal where organizations and public can bring up issues/ID them for the committee from their expertise, then sort what is within the HRC 's purview - can we have a way to disseminate this to NNV nonprofits and then groups can reach out directly?

Chair Savoy - This happens at renown, people get asks but don't have all the relevant information about who needs supporting and how to find points that are missing.

Mr. Bond - Used for a roster so group can reach out between one another, just to see who's concerns align to be placed on agenda formally. Clarification that i'm already at council, doesn't mean to exclude anyone else that might be interested in appearing at RCC. Have a point of contact for HRC issues so things can get agendized and then comment and discussion can be addressed,

Julie Towler - The legal advice is to not communicate via email as a quorum, if you want communication, contact Cynthia directly to avoid any issues with Open Meeting Law.

Chair Savoy - Talked with Cynthia about this, can we email cynthia & bcc rest?

Ms. Towler - No, I advise against that due to public records requests. If request filed, there's a way to include BCCs in public record.

Chair Savoy - So there are ways to communicate these things to the group?

Ms. Towler - Cynthia can email the group, and you can reply directly to Cynthia

Ms. Garfinkel - So we are hub and spoke? Cynthia is our central point but we contact her directly?

Chair Savoy - Let's table that, and move to needing outreach to the community to let people know that we exist?

Ms. Esparza - That can be a goal that is presented to council, this is a goal that can be an achievement come the review of the year.

Chair Savoy - Then this is a good framework, this is a phase 1 year one to branch out from?

Ms. Youngs - This is where we can discuss how we will accomplish these things? If we can accomplish these things we can both take responsibility and have achievable benchmarks - we can then meet with stakeholders, receive input and then communicate to Cynthia to agendize concerns/points of interest. Once we learn what's needed we can have a better idea of what needs to happen for execution. Think in the year one space, allows for growth over long period.

Ms. Towler - Less than quorum can do outreach for fact gathering, discussion of matters must go through the group in public meeting.

Chair Savoy - So someone can go to organization to a group and let them know about RHRC?

Ms Towler - RHRC needs to know and approve of meetings with HRC individuals **on behalf** of the group.

Chair Savoy - So as private citizens can we go and do this, have them contact Cynthia?

Ms. Youngs - We don't want meetings that look like discussion beyond fact gathering to not be in violation - can we meet people and say 'great we'd love to talk more about your groups concerns THEN reach out to Cynthia to agendize - no discussion in fact gathering of "here's what HRC can do."

Towler - Is your question if this goes both ways? Example - you and person from an organization having coffee, person says 'hey i want HRC to do xyz about "d" - HRC member says 'contact Cynthia, agendize your concerns and the council will address at the next meeting.'

Alex Goff joins meeting at 4:21pm.

Ms. Towler - OML activated when there is a quorum, i would be wary of binding the body to an action until discussed by the entire group

Ms. Eddings - I'd like to start organizing our comments into our pillars and beginning to sort out how we are working.

Ms. Esparza - Chairman Savoy can we start putting items into our pillars?

Ms. Eddings - I've gathered some points I think can go into pillars - if we want to have action items in the pillars

Ms. Youngs - As we each identify issues that are important, can we narrow scope and take responsibilities?

Chair Savoy - Once we identify these things, let's make them executable things. Should we put group promotion as outreach? Also can we call this, for our purposes, call this RHRC to clarify we mean us exclusively?

Ms Eddings - Going to council meetings - educate or outreach? This is an action item we can have.

Mr. Goff - I've heard people bring up items at NABs that are RHRC specific, make sure to advise other organizations that this council exists.

Chair Savoy - Awareness of what else is happening in the city that are aligned with RHRC? Make ourselves available? In research.

Mr. Goff - Can there be a meeting of other group chairs just to make sure no duplication of efforts?

Mr. Bond - You can attend any public meetings as you see fit (NABs) if something is overlooked, helpful if others attend meetings and see what is discussed and gather information for us.

Ms Esparza - To chime in , would it be helpful to just get up and place issues on boards as you see fit

Ms Garfinkel - Do we want an RHRC panel/event?

Ms. Youngs - Generally in favor, let's put it on the board - re: advocacy, i'm not sure we've discussed what advocacy looks like for us?

Bond - we know that the mayor is in favor with the boards goals, councilman Reese as well,

Sean - meeting with groups - what it means to be doing these things, calling for champions to help with RHRCs goals

Bond - sure, but we just need to pull them out of the woodwork, champions of our causes are already there it's a matter of knowing RHRC is here and how they can help/voice concerns

Courtney - of course many of these things bleed into each other but be cognizant of the overlap

Sean - in research what exists in policies or local law that could maybe use revising find antiquated/non inclusive policies and advise RCC about them

Bond - if you're going to do an event, feed and drink people , i'd volunteer to organize such an event

Goff - Education, how do different people in different communities communicate, how best to communicate between/within groups

Sean - also how people communicate on a personal language with each other within those groups

Bond - i'm not trying to step on anyone

Savoy - this is a lively brainstorming - i think where atty put down communication it could be further broken down within subcultural groups to promote competence

[minutes]

Mr. Bond - Need to distinguish between disability and mental health - they are two very disparate things and demand distinction

Ms. Eddings - Are we diving too far into details right now, instead of broad action items?

Ms. Esparza - Can add things to newsletters, there's certainly an opportunity for that to happen for RHRC.

Mr. Goff - doesn't this just fall into communication? What are the open rates on newsletter emails?

Ms. Eddings to Ms. Esparza - Can we be introduced to other commission agendas? Can that be an action item?

Ms. Esparza - anyone can attend any meeting at public comment as well, other option to reach out to staff liaison.

Mr. Goff - Advocacy can be connecting citizens to opportunities to inform/educate/action.

Chair Savoy - A portal for opportunities to volunteer, work for relevant organizations.

Mr. Bond - Make sure to not act outside of the scope.

Chair Savoy - Please remember to use resident/visitor and not citizen.

Ms. Eddings - Can we just have a protocol and a reference document so it can be used as a public resource, and not multiple individual advisements from one council member?

Mr. Bond - Yes, plus Robert's Rules for reference.

**Move to adjourn or 5 min recess**

**Mr. Sotelo seconds**

**All in favor**

**Recess at 5:11pm**

**Meeting recalled 5:27pm**

Chair Savoy - We need to end the meeting about ten before 6pm to allow staff to close the meeting venue.

Each member please identify your top 2 priorities of each board

-members prioritizing items on Outreach/Education/Advocacy and Research boards-

Advocacy -

Portal connecting residents with experts and groups

Reaching out to groups that do wield the power, advocacy to them

Education -

Cultural competence

Understanding what mediums are available, how best to communicate to groups

Outreach-

Promotion of RHRC existence/what who they are

Open house event

Research -

Find experts and groups on issues pertaining to RHRC goals/purview

Target audiences

Chair Savoy - How and where do these tie back to promotion of overarching goals? Upon next meeting review and get to the "how" of initial priorities, and draft a vision document.

Ms Eddings - Really nice to have a longer session, is this something we can continue?

Chair Savoy - We have permission to continue this process until a work plan is drafted. When s next regular meeting?

Ms. Esparza - This process should be completed before the next regular meeting. If the commission wants to bring groups to workshop meeting that can be done.

Chair Savoy - next workshop date -

Group ASAP

Chair Savoy - August or September? Beginning of September? Around same time?

Ms. Towler- Staff limitations to this venue, please be cognizant of the limitations of McKinley ctr

Chair Savoy - any future items?



Ms Eddings - Any homework for issues from today?

Chair Savoy - Minutes and typed reports from this meeting for review, reivise priorities and bylaws and overarching goals and mandates, make cohesive for presentation of vision document. Charters of Freedom statue and conversation about that w/ Brekhus and urgency surrounding discussion of that. We were contacted by Northern Nevada Refugee Project, do we want them to attend the next regular meeting or workshop?

Ms. Youngs - Can we communicate to them that the priority is workshop and then next regular meeting?

**Public Comment**

Ms. Esparza - Reminder: On August 22nd & 27th 5:30pm board and commission member training to go over ethics, OML, procedures etc

Chair Savoy - Can you please resend meeting for members of this commission?

Mr Bond - A reminder that I am happy to advise on any matters pertaining to meetings.

Mr. Goff moves to adjourn

Ms. Garfinkel seconds

All in favor

Meeting adjourns 5:49pm