



City of Lacey, Washington
Commission on Equity Approved Minutes
Monday, February 26, 2024 - Council Chambers and Online

1. Call to Order

Chair Annie Clay called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Roll Call

EQUITY COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Annie Clay; Vice Chair Kim Sauer; Commissioners Makieda Hart, Jon Hegwood (remote), and Kristine Stolberg (remote); and Youth Representative Samuel Tatarian

EQUITY COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Cliff Brown and Thelma Jackson

COUNCIL PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager; Vanessa Dolbee, Community and Economic Development Director; Jennifer Adams, Housing Coordinator; Wesley Nguyen, Economic Development Coordinator, Paul White, Deputy City Clerk

3. Land Acknowledgment

Chair Clay presented the abbreviated Land Acknowledgment.

4. Approval of Agenda, Previous Meeting Minutes, and Consent Items:

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of January 29, 2024, meeting minutes

Commissioner Hart moved to approve the agenda, previous meeting minutes, and consent items. Commissioner Sauer seconded. Motion carried.

5. Public Comment:

The Commission received no written public comments and no verbal comments.

6. Inspirational Item:

A. Commissioner Kristine Stolberg

Commissioner Stolberg shared a quote by Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. about unarmed truth and unconditional love overcoming racism and war.

7. Business Items:

A. Thurston County Economic Development Council Presentation

Sean Moore, Director, Economic Development Council

Mayra Pena, BIPOC Business Community Liaison

Director Sean Moore presented services provided by the Economic Development Council (EDC) to support entrepreneurs in all stages of business development, including: advising on securing government contracts, workforce training, prototyping, advising and training for women-owned businesses, and business classes and advising. BIPOC Business Community Liaison Mayra Pena overviewed the BIPOC Business Task Force and their recommendations in the focus areas of: accessing capital, networking and mentorship, outreach, inclusion of young adults, and budgeting. Discussion ensued.

B. Lacey Chamber of Commerce Presentation

Blake Knoblauch, Executive Director, Lacey South Sound Chamber

Executive Director Blake Knoblauch described the Lacey/South Sound Chamber of Commerce's support of local business through internal promotion and fostering businesses' reputations within the community. Discussion ensued.

C. Economic Development Update

Vanessa Dolbee, Community and Economic Development Director

Wesley Nguyen, Economic Development Coordinator

Community and Economic Development Director Vanessa Dolbee and Economic Development Coordinator Wesley Nguyen presented the City's Economic Development Update, including program priorities and statistics. Current economic development priorities include participating in updates to the city's Comprehensive Plan, pursuing a four-county federally approved economic development district, promotion of the Lacey MakerSpace project, and Midtown Alliance and Midtown Innovation District development. Outcomes from recent



department initiatives were shared related to BIPOC business startup training and a monthly South Sound BIPOC Roundtable. Discussion ensued.

D. Middle Housing Public Engagement

Jennifer Adams, Housing Coordinator

Housing Coordinator Jennifer Adams presented an overview of middle housing, including related data. Staff plans to propose a middle housing ordinance in mid-2025 following public engagement. Commissioners were asked to offer guidance in planning public involvement for the middle housing engagement efforts. Discussion ensued.

8. Commissioner Reports:

Chair Clay reminded the Commission of the Lacey Museum's History Talks at Lacey City Hall in March and April.

Youth Representative Samuel Tatarian provided an update on the upcoming March 16 Youth Summit and Resource Fair.

9. Director Report:

A. DEIB Strategic Plan Update

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

Kelley-Fong provided an update on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Strategic Plan currently under review by City staff.

B. Lacey Cultural Celebration

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

Kelley-Fong provided a reminder on the Commission on Equity booth at the Lacey Cultural Celebration on March 9.

C. Community Forum Planning

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

Kelley-Fong invited Commissioners to help plan the next community forum.

Kelley-Fong reminded Commissioners to opt in to the stipend program by the end of February and to complete a demographic survey.



Kelley-Fong highlighted that the March Commission on Equity meeting is expected to include a presentation by Climate and Sustainability Coordinator Linsey Fields.

10. Adjourn

**Commissioner Sauer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.
Commissioner Hart seconded. Motion carried.**

Minutes approved March 25, 2024.

