



Commission on Equity Approved Minutes

Monday, April 28, 2025

Council Chambers and Online

1. Call to Order

Chair Sauer called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. Roll Call

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Kim Sauer, Chair; Commissioners Annie Clay, Raul Garza, Makieda Hart (remote), and Jon Hegwood; and Kieran Sills-Powell, Lacey Youth Council Representative

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Thelma Jackson, Vice Chair and Clifton Brown, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT: Rick Walk, City Manager; Veronica Hand, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager; Wesley Nguyen, Economic Development Coordinator; and Brandy Legomina, Deputy City Clerk

3. Land Acknowledgement

Commissioner Hegwood presented the abbreviated Land Acknowledgment.

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

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of March 24, 2025, meeting minutes

Commissioner Hegwood moved to approve the agenda, previous meeting minutes, and consent agenda. Commissioner Clay seconded. The motion carried.

5. Public Comment

Verbal Public Comment

No public comment was received in person or remotely.

Written Public Comment

Seventeen (17) written public comments were received.

6. Inspirational Item

A. Raul Garza, Commissioner

Commissioner Garza presented a quote from *The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House*, by Audre Lorde. Commissioner Garza indicated that this quote resonates with righting the wrongs that were perpetuated against Indigenous communities and changing systems that perpetuate harm.

7. Business Items

A. Lacey Night Market - Pride Night

Wesley Nguyen, Economic Development Coordinator

Nguyen presented on the Lacey Night Market's Pride Night, scheduled for June 13, 2025. Nguyen provided history on the Lacey Night Market and provided statistics on attendance. The Lacey Night Market occurs every other Friday, supports small businesses and entrepreneurs, and aims to be a vibrant community gathering place.

B. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Summit Update Veronica Hand, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager

Hand provided an update on the Thurston Forward: A DEI Summit for Progress event, scheduled for May 10, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., at the South Puget Sound Community College Lacey Campus. The Summit expects to have approximately 150 attendees, with 17 organizations providing sponsorship.

8. Commissioner Reports

A. Veterans, Active Duty, and Families Community Forum Update

Makieda Hart, Commissioner
Jon Hegwood, Commissioner
Raul Garza, Commissioner

Commissioners Hart, Hegwood, and Garza provided an update on the Veterans, Active Duty, and Families Community Forum, scheduled for May 28, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Lacey Veterans Services Hub. The event is being promoted throughout the military community with confirmed attendance from local organizations.

Commissioner Clay shared the Let's Talk About the Housing Crisis event, scheduled for May 17, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the YWCA.

Commissioner Hegwood provided an update from the April 13, 2025, PFLAG meeting, held at the United Methodist Church.

Commissioner Hart shared the Project SAFER event, scheduled for May 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., in the Olympia High School cafeteria.

Commissioner Clay discussed the City of Lacey participating in the Capital Pride Parade, scheduled for June 29, 2025.

Commissioner Clay discussed the Proclamation Against Hate display.

Chair Sauer invited the Commission to attend the Soroptimist International of Olympia event scheduled for May 3, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Indian Summer Golf Course, where Vice Chair Jackson and Chair Sauer will be recognized as the recipients of the Inspirational Woman in the South Sound Award.

9. Director Report

Walk invited the Commission to attend the North Thurston Public Schools Community Conversation event, scheduled for May 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., at River Ridge High School. This event will discuss safety, homelessness, and substance abuse in the community and within the school.

10. Adjourn

Chair Sauer adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Approved June 2, 2025.