

NORMAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES
CITY OF NORMAN
February 28, 2022

The Human Rights Commission of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the Municipal Complex located at 201 West Gray Street on February 28, 2022, at 5:30 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting were duly posted 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Item 1, being: ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioners Christina Owen (Chair), Jackie Farley, Chris Nanny, Ellen Kraft, Samuel Woodfork

ABSENT: Commissioners Marjaneh Seirafi-Pour (Vice-Chair), Cathy Billings, Dr. Hairong Song, Michael Kihega

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Diversity and Equity Officer Cinthya Allen, Assistant City Attorney Anthony Purinton, Legal Admin Tech Sarah Encinias

Item 2, being: Approval of the Minutes for the November 22, 2021, Regular Meeting

Chair Owen motioned to approve the Minutes of the November 22, 2021, meeting and the motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Kraft. Roll was called with the following results: all approved, and none opposed. The Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Item 3, being: Annual Election for Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair Owen expressed interest in remaining as HRC Chair and Vice-Chair Marjaneh Seirafi-Pour previously communicated to staff that she also would like to remain HRC Vice-Chair, if no other member was interested in the position. A vote was taken with the following results: all approved, and none opposed. The decision was unanimous that Christina Owen would remain as Chair and Marjaneh Seirafi-Pour would remain as Vice-Chair for this calendar year.

Item 4, being: Discussion and possible action on Human Rights Award

Commissioners held group discussion regarding all 5 nominations that were received for the Human Rights Award and a final vote was taken with the following results: all approved, and none opposed. The Norman Coalition for Refugee Support was chosen by unanimous vote as the award recipient. The award is scheduled to be presented at the City Council meeting on March 8, 2022.

Item 5, being: State Legislative Update

Regarding Adult Changing Tables, Mr. Purinton said this year's legislative session produced House Bill 3015 which was sent to a committee and is expected to pass the House. It will then be sent to the Senate for approval. Last year's bill didn't make it this far last year because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Commissioner Nanny requests members contact their legislators to show support. Additional information regarding the bill can be found in emails from Commissioner Nanny.

Regarding Conversion Therapy, the Oklahoma House "State Powers" Committee voted to approve a HB 2973 that would retroactively legalize conversion therapy in Oklahoma, preempting any bans already put into place. The bill, authored by Jim Olsen (R-Roland), will now be heard by the house floor. Communications received from former HRC Commissioner, Sage Mauldin, requests support to oppose this legislative action.

Item 6, being: People of Color Commission Recommendation Update

Ms. Allen said this item was sent to the City Council Oversight Committee and Councilmember Lee Hall sent it back to staff to review for feasibility and further discussion. City Staff presented an action plan for a Diversity and Equity Roundtable at a City Oversight Committee meeting. It will be overseen by the City's Diversity & Equity Office and an application process can begin in March or April. Members would serve for 2 years and meet on a bi-monthly basis with 10-15 members total. The roundtable is slated to start in July.

Item 7, being: Discussion on Norman Pride Street Sign Proposal

This item was moved to the end of today's agenda and was postponed until the next meeting due to the loss of a quorum.

Item 8, being: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Potential 2022 HRC Retreat Date

The retreat was originally scheduled for January 24, 2022, but had to be cancelled due to issues related to the concurrent COVID-19 outbreak. Commissioners agreed to reset the next meeting from Monday, April 25, 2022, to Friday, April 22, 2022, and use this date for the retreat. Commissioners will meet from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm and lunch will be provided.

Item 9, being: Miscellaneous Discussion

Mr. Purinton informed the Commission that a Human Rights Complaint had been received and that this would be presented to commissioners at the next meeting.

Item 10, being: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.