

# Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2022 - 3:30 p.m.

Members Present	Members Absent
Casey Bakhsh	Thomas Boxley
Andrew Carlson	Carmela Hill
Stacy Cole	Vickie Holler
Drew France	
Toby Jenkins	
Lynn Jones	
Tia Juby	
Amanda Peregrina	
Joshua Stark	
Shannon Starr	
Kim Teehee	
Andrea Walker	

## I. Call to Order and Introductions

- a. Meeting called to order at 3:30 pm by chairwoman Juby

## II. Compassionate Tulsa Awards Presentation

- a. Commissioner Walker introduces Vicky Langston and Gary Paluso to introduce the April compassionate Tulsan of the month.
  - i. The Compassionate Tulsan for April is Aliye Shimi.
    1. Aliye serves as the Executive Director of the Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry and was honored for her prominent efforts in building bridges both inside and outside of her community, and advocacy of religious tolerance. Her work has served the Syrian and Afghan refugee communities, provided a platform for the Muslim community, and firmly partners with the LGBTQ Community.

## III. Equality Indicators Presentation, Krystal Reyes, City of Tulsa Chief Resilience Officer

- a. Kristel Reyes presents the 2021 Equality Indicators Report to the commission to bring awareness and information to the commission as identified focus areas for the commission to explore within the City of Tulsa. You can see the 2021 Equality Indicators Report, here: [CSC Tulsa Tulsa Equality Indicators - CSC Tulsa](#)
  - i. Commissioner France asks if there are any benchmarks for other Cities that collect information the way that Tulsa has.
    1. Krystal replies that Tulsa is the only city in Oklahoma to have something equivalent to an equality indicators report. However, she does report that there are many interested cities and that could change soon. She reports that this data is compared to the national indicators.

2. Commissioner France follows up and asks if there are any indicators in the report folks would like to see immediate improvements or additions to, but haven't.
  - a. Krystal explains that the criteria must be updated every year and public information has to be disaggregated by groups, which sorely eliminates what we can measure. However, there's data on LGBTQ & Youth that the city struggles to collect, and it's sorely needed.
3. Commissioner Cole asks how the city gathers the data for the equality indicators.
  - a. Krystal replies that multiple tools were utilized. A specific survey was sent, and county, city, and census data were all collected as well.
    - i. Commissioner Cole asks how the information regarding economic income was specifically collected
      1. Krystal replies that the census informed that portion.
        - a. Commissioner Cole muses that he's interested in the folks who don't respond to the census, and how that may have skewed the results.
    - ii. Commissioner Juby clarifies that she'd like for each commissioner to send ideas, and thoughts they'd like to explore to her via email so that they can begin narrowing down interest for an area of focus.
      1. Commission Cole asks what the Mayor's priority issues are and what his attention is focused on.
        - a. Krystal responds that all of the equality indicators are priorities and areas of interest because they measure the progress of the city overall. In the past year, she acknowledges that the city has heavily focused on economic disparities – TAE0 was created, attention to economic disparities in North Tulsa is being addressed, and more focus is turning to the current housing crisis. However, she reminds the commission that the city will always have a heavy focus on economic disparity because of its influence on historical racism and current structural issues.
    - iii. Krystal reminds the commissioners that regardless of what they choose, representation in government is important and that she wants the city's authorities, boards, and commissions to be well represented as direct pipelines to government leadership.

1. Krystal discusses the awareness around the issues that this group can bring to people – and encourages the commission to advocate, and form initiatives and subcommittees around the Equality Indicators.
  - a. Commissioner Cole finishes by stating that he was struck by the amount of payday loan vendors in the disenfranchised and low-income areas, and expresses how disturbing and predatory it is.

**IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes: <https://bit.ly/03212022HRCMM>**

- a. Commissioner Juby calls for a motion to approve the March meeting minutes.
- b. Minutes approved by Commissioner Cole
- c. Seconded by Commissioner Stark
- d. Minutes approved

**V. Discussion regarding support letter requesting Kim Teehee be seated as Cherokee**

**VI. Nation's delegate**

- a. Chairwoman Juby reintroduces her request for the commission to vote on sending a letter of support to congress.
  - i. Commissioner Bakhshs asks who the letter will be made out to – i.e. is the commission supporting Kimberly specifically, or Cherokee Nation?
    1. Commissioner Juby replies that Kimberly was already formally appointed by the Cherokee Nation Chief – so it has nothing to do with the city or our preferences.
  - ii. Commissioner France asks if the commission should adjust the language to reflect a request from the Human Rights Commission's mission and purpose, stating their responsibility to champion human rights issues.
    1. Commissioner Starr replies that while the language is specific and pointed, and identical to the Indian Affairs Commission's letter of support - it is definitely warranted.
- b. Commissioner Juby makes a motion to approve sending the letter pending the discussed changes being applied.
  - i. Commissioner Walker makes a motion to approve
  - ii. Commissioner Starr seconds the motion
    1. All in unanimous approval

**VII. Chair's Report**

- a. No report

**VIII. Standing Committee Reports:**

**a. Compliance and Advisory Committee**

**i. No report**

**b. Fair Housing Committee**

- i. Commissioner Bakhshs reports that many interesting and fun things are happening with non-profit solutions.
  1. A Landlord/tenant resource center was established to create better relationships and understanding of tenant/landlord rights.

2. We have eviction court with attorneys who have volunteered their time to educate and encourage tenants to come and discuss what to do when being threatened with eviction, which is a scary and intimidating process.
3. Landlord and tenant mediations are being held, and are already showing proof of being helpful.
4. PSO is also doing education regarding energy efficiency programs.

**c. Community Relations Committee**

- i. No report
- ii. Commissioner Jenkins states that he wants to address the feeling of any commissioner feeling coerced or rushed to make decisions. He cautions the commission that activists will regularly be coming to this commission looking for influence, and many times the commission won't get all the details or have the capacity to debate because there will be a necessary need to take immediate action.
  1. Commissioner France thanks Toby for the context but still thinks it's a disservice to the commission for any of the commissioners not to understand what's going on.
  2. Commissioner Jenkins vows to work on being more transparent in items moving forward so that no one ever feels too sidetracked

**d. Compassionate Tulsa Committee**

- i. Commissioner Walker encourages everyone to make a nomination for the compassionate Tulsa awards and reminds everyone that nominating is a simple and meaningful way to recognize the community.

**IX. Title 5 Commission Reports:**

**a. The Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission**

- i. No report

**b. Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women**

- i. No report

**c. The Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission**

- i. No report

**d. The Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic /Latinx Affairs Commission**

- i. Commissioner Peregrina reports that the commission is still preparing for the Tomas Rivera Awards.
- ii. She also reports that the commission is discussing ways to address the Tulsa school board, after a recent meeting where one of the board members questioned the immigration status of another, which the commission considers racist. The commission will be drafting a letter to address it, provide cultural awareness, and offer themselves as a resource for education on the topic of immigration.

**X. Old Business**

- a. None

**XI. Announcements / Public Comments**

- a. None

## **XII. Adjournment**

- a.** Commissioner Jones makes a motion to adjourn
- b.** Commissioner Carlson seconds the motion
- c.** Meeting adjourned at 4:32