

# Kitsap County Council for Human Rights MINUTES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 5:30 PM Meeting via Zoom only

The **Mission of the Kitsap County Council for Human Rights** is twofold:

1. To advise county government and Kitsap County community on issues related to discrimination, violence and harassment based on race or national origin, religion, age, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, or economic status, and
2. To promote equitable treatment of all people and reduce prejudice through education, resource referrals, and advocacy.

	Name	Position*		Name	Position*
T	Dionne Deschenne, <i>Chair</i>	D1 – P1	T	Elizabeth Holmes	D3 – P1
E	Erin Lanum, <i>Secretary</i>	D1 – P2	U	Cris Amburgey	D3 – P2
T	Judy Friesem	D1 – P3	T	Kirsten Dahlquist	D3 – P3
U	Melisa Wight	D1 – P4	U	Shannae Peters	D3 – P4
T	Christina Barone	D2 – P1	T	Augustine Lujan, <i>Vice Chair</i>	At-large
E	Rochelle Karlsen	D2 – P2		<i>Vacant</i>	At-large
T	Jim Manlove	D2 – P3	T	Nicola D’Anella	At-large
T	Erika Anderson	D2 – P4	T	Rebecca Pirtle	County Admin.

**\*Note on Positions:** Commissioner for District 1 Christine Rolfes; District 2 Charlotte Garrido; District 3 Katie Walters.

**Attendance:** P – present T – present by technology E – absent excused U – absent unexcused

1) Called to order at 5:34 PM

2) Approval of Agenda: Agenda amended to add voting on Linda Gabriel Award recipients and request from organization for letter of support for project. Agenda unanimously approved with revisions.

3) Approved Minutes from October 17, 2023 meeting. Chirs motioned, Jim second, unanimous.

4) New Business

- Request from local museum for letter of support for project related to human rights – the project and request were discussed and it was determined that due to the almost immediate deadline for the letter, the request could not be properly considered and voted upon. Rebecca will notify the requesting agency.
- New reports from community – reports of same situations continue (alleged failure to address racism within NKSD, ongoing anti-LGBTQ conduct within CKSD and SKSD), but no new situations have been reported since last meeting.
- Request to issue a statement – an official from the American Jewish Committee (AJC) asked to meet with Council leadership. Chair Deschenne and Vice Chair Lujan met with him via Zoom and he formally requested the Council issue a statement declaring its stand of solidarity with and support of the People of Israel. The Council discussed and determined that Israel is outside of the jurisdiction of those the Council serves and the Council supports the protection and preservation of human rights themselves, without bias for one particular group. The Council determined it could not issue the statement that was requested.

5) Old Business

- Linda Gabriel Award nominees were reviewed and recipients were selected. Judy motioned those selected receive the awards, Augie seconded, vote was unanimous. The 2023 recipients will be: Youth – Katie Blackburn; Adult – Cristina Roark and Pastor Gregory Reffner; Lifetime Achievement – Sue Miglino and Linda Segur; Organization – Catalyst Public Schools and Kitsap Strong. Rebecca will check to see if awards can be conferred at Commissioners’ meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>. One that is determined, Dionne will notify recipients. Council members are asked to be present in-person or via Zoom if possible.

- Committee Reports: Beyond planning for the Awards Ceremony and the January Retreat, the committees' work is largely done for the year and new committees will form and resume the work in 2024.

6) Next meeting: December 9, 2023 (time and location TBD)

7) Adjourned at 6:48 PM.

Minutes submitted by Chairperson Dionne Deschenne