



Commissioner Rev. Walter Kendricks,  
Representing Eastern Washington

Commissioner Joseph Todd, Vice Chair  
Representing South King County

Commissioner Stacy Estes  
Representing Central Washington

Commissioner Michael Bailey  
Representing King County

Commissioner LeRoy Laney III  
Representing King County

Commissioner Zellynda Perkins  
Representing Pierce County

Commissioner Dr. Yolanda Geolingo  
Representing Thurston County

Commissioner Sheila Stanton  
Representing King County

Commissioner Lolinda Turner  
Representing Pierce County

Executive Director Edward O. Prince

## Commission on African American Affairs Public Meeting Minutes Friday, May 17, 2024 | 1:00 pm - 4:00 p.m. | In Person 3114 E 5th Ave, Spokane, WA 99202 – Carl Maxey Center

**Members present:** Chair Kendricks, Bailey, Perkins, Laney, Turner, Estes, Executive Director Edward Prince, Program Manager Charlotte Kerney, Executive Assistant Keahna Umpstead. Quorum established.

**Absent:** Geolingo, Stanton, Vice- Chair Todd

**1:00pm** – Meeting called to order by Chair Kendricks

**1:02pm** – Roll Call

**1:03pm** - Motion to approve meeting minutes by Commissioner Laney – Motion seconded to correct and accept minutes by Commissioner Estes.

**Chair Kendricks called for vote to accept March 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**Voice vote** – no objections. Motion carried. March 2024 commission meeting minutes approved.

**1:05pm** – Mayor of Spokane, Lisa Brown – Opening Remarks and speaking on her priorities for Spokane

**Discussion** – Honoring Carl Maxey and the Carl Maxey Center and all that it has become since the late Sandy Williams vision for the space.

### Mayoral Priorities

- Elevating the office of equity to a cabinet position. Renamed to the Office of Civil Rights, Equity and Inclusion.
  - Previously hired new Director Jerrall Haynes heading this new office
  - Staff positions still being filled with first staffer beginning on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
  - Developing the instalment of the hate crime hotline
    - Spokane is the first pilot city in WA State’s work to achieve the creation of a statewide hate crime hotline created by The Attorney General’s office in SB 5427.

- City Planning Dept. new compressive plan to work on eradicating racist covenants that still exist in city laws and working to ensure leftover lands from the Spokane North, South corridor project is given back to the impacted community it was taken from in East Central Spokane.
- Analysis of Spokane boards and commissions
  - Hoping to change the lack of racial and geographic diversity currently present in the currently seated members, to allow for them to more accurately represent the city of Spokane.
  - Stipend possibilities for those who sit on the city boards and commissions like what was installed by Mayor Brown during here time at the Washington State Department of Commerce.
- Working to eliminate the racist covenants within the Spokane housing market on the current deeds of property.
- Evaluating City hiring plan
  - Hiring new Human resources Director that has a commitment to diversity, hiring best practices, and emphasis on staff training.
  - Mayors' office and city council putting together a questionnaire for city employees to gage the feelings of those currently employed.
- Hring of new police chief after the resignation of former Spokane police chief before Mayor Brown officially took office.
  - Engaging a consultant in this search to make this a national search.
- Assistant City Administrator, Maggie Yates brought on to assist in Community safety.
  - Holding community meetings to get feedback on community safety in respect to leadership needs and city budgeting priorities.
- Partnered with recruitment firm with a placement history of 50% women and people of color in their job placements to help with the need to hire the open city official positions.
- Community Safety Investments
  - Prioritizing investments in the office of the police ombudsman that was created by the vote of the people of Spokane but has yet to have any movement on its creation since that vote 6 or 7 years ago.
- Housing
  - Tackling how to change the structure of services for he unhoused population which under the previous administration was a warehouse approach to the problem.
  - ARPA Funds being potentially allocated to assist in solutions along with \$4 million special appropriations to the city of Spokane to help with new shelters to transition from the previous leased warehouse for the unhoused that has no facilities or resources.
  - Also working to have the Healthcare Authority to bring health and medical services to the unhoused community directly to the new shelters.
  - Spokane City Council passed policy for infill and multi-family duplexes and triplexes.
  - HB 1590 passed to allocate funding to begin the movement on affordable housing.

## **1:55pm – Spokane Council President, Betsy Wilkerson – Spokane City Council Update**

Speaks on here honor and excitement to be voted onto the Spokane City Council to represent the community of Spokane and all its members.

### **Current successes and developments**

- Working with Washington State Dept. of Transportation to gain back I-9 land to repurpose the land back to its original purpose which was for low income and affordable housing.
- Assisted in the legislations that renamed Fort George Wright Drive to Whistalks Way after a 20-year battle prior to being seated on the council of the Native American Community fighting for this name change.

**Discussion** – While things are improving in Spokane on the fight for DEI there is still work to be done to educate and positively influence the community by providing an inclusive environment for all those in the City of Spokane.

## **2:40pm – City Council Member, Lily Navarrete – Spokane District 2 Update**

Honored to be the first Latina on the Spoken board and committed to honoring those who came before her who helped to pave the way for her position on the City Council to be possible. Committed to showing Spokane that everyone is a part of one community, and because of that each community within Spokane needs to work together to continue to grow and make positive change.

### **Goals as sitting Spokane Councilmember**

- Language Access
  - Working to get city materials translated into the top three languages in Spokane (to start) to allow for more community voice at Council meetings and city opportunities.
- Solutions for the unhoused population
  - Creating navigation centers to assist in getting people the resources they need that are already provided by the city and state to help with resource access.
  - Working closely with the Catholic Charities to build the centers and resources they are already in the community providing. Partnering to make sure that the materials and resources offered are translated into the three top languages to allow for these resources to be more accessible to the community.

**Discussion** – the need to work together more as a BIPOC community beginning with mutual support partnerships between the Ethnic Commissions and the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA).

### **3:00pm – Director of the Carl Maxey Center, Jolissa Winkler- Update on Maxey Center**

Focus on recentering the center since the loss of the previous director and creator the Maxey Center, and former CAAA Commissioner, Sandy Williams. Getting the center back to its feet and continuing to build the strong foundation they will need to accomplish all the goals and dreams set forth by Sandy when creating the center from an abandoned garage. A vision that will allow plans that will take affect and directly impact the black community in Spokane.

#### **Maxey Center Current Projects**

- Sandy Williams Justice Center
  - Working on reform within the family justice courts
- Housing and Economic Opportunity Committee
  - Working with Washington State Department of Transportation to get the land that was originally bought by WADOT for the North South corridor leased back to the community which hopefully, the Maxey Center would hold leasing rights to.
  - Land would be leased for 99 years from WADOT for \$1.
  - Hope that the reclaimed land would go back to development for the black community that it was taken from and allow for a lot of housing, and community control over what other businesses comes into the community with the reclaiming of this land.

### **3:15pm – Welcome to new CAAA Commissioner, Lolinda Turner**

**3:17pm – Executive Director, Ed Prince, reminds Commission of the focus on making sure that the black community is registered to vote for the upcoming state and federal election.**

**3:20pm – Public Comment – No public Comment**

**3:25pm – Tour of Carl Maxey Center**

**4:00pm – Meeting Adjourned**