



Commission Chair Will Hausa
Representing Pierce County

Commission Vice-chair Sara Franklin
Representing South King County

Commissioner De'Sean Quinn
Representing South King County

Commissioner Chaune Fitzgerald
Representing Tri-Cities

Commissioner Joyce Bruce
Representing King County

Commissioner Dorian Waller
Representing Pierce County

Commissioner Andrea Caupain
Representing King County

Commissioner Rev. Walter Kendricks
Representing Eastern Washington

Executive Director Edward O. Prince

Commission on African American Affairs Meeting Minutes Friday, January 22, 2020 via Zoom 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Members present: Chair Hausa, Vice-Chair Franklin-Phillips, Fitzgerald, Kendricks, Quinn, Sardinias, Waller, Executive Director Edward Prince, Executive Assistant Charlotte Kerney

Absent: Commissioner Bruce, Commissioner Caupain. Quorum established

3:30 PM -- Meeting called to order by Chair Hausa

3:32 PM – Roll call by Executive Assistant Charlotte Kerney

3:35 PM – **Request** to adopt previous meeting minutes by Chair Hausa.

Motion to adopt previous meeting minutes. **Seconded** by Commissioner Sardinias. No discussion.

**Unanimous voice vote to adopt November 2020 meeting minutes. Motion carried
Previous meeting minutes adopted**

3:40 PM – Commission Retreat Summary

Chair Hausa: I would like each commissioner to track two legislative committees. We can then develop templates or talking points for the community to use in their efforts petition legislators. The vice-chair and I were discussing a toolkit to walk the community through the process for them to be successful.

Commissioner Franklin Phillips: There is a fine line between advocating and lobbying as a commissioner and given the capacity, we have to pull the community into the room with us. It's valuable were having this conversation as the community needs to be as strong of a voice as the commission.

4:00 PM – **Habitat for Humanity Presentation; Adan Espino and Michonne Preston of Sermonti Affairs**

Michonne Preston is CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Washington state. Thanks to Mr. Prince for allowing us to present today; our message aligns well with your goals. My role is with the State of Washington and the Habitat affiliates. We are 25 strong of various sizes and volunteer driven. Habitat for Humanity began in Atlanta 30 years ago with a goal of making affordable housing, particularly homeownership, a right and not a privilege. In Washington state, almost 68% of the 3500 homebuilt statewide have been built for families of color. The result from a century of oppression means all of our people have been left out. Policies adopted in the '20s and '30s devastated the country. HFH wants to step forward as a community collaborator to recognize a small piece of this injustice: The lack of access to homeownership for not only low-income, but all-income people of color

Espino: We are advocating for a proviso – soliciting Representative Johnson to champion it and the language includes the Commission as being a workgroup member. Budget writers had stated no provisos, but Senator Billig feels this would probably be the one of the few provisos that would pass this session. Its hard to argue against people getting homes, moreover people who have been directly disenfranchised by redlining or denial of mortgage applications due to racism and other actions such as these. HFH is looking to create a workgroup to create actionable policies to address the issues. In wants to avoid a study that fails to lead to action. Findings would have to be presented in 2023 so this would be the foundation for an ongoing effort. The Commission on Hispanic Affairs has already signed on in support and subsequent meetings with the realtors, bankers and others are scheduled. Looking to put rubber to the road. On the Senate side, looking for Senator Nobles to talk about the strategy. Hoping for CAAA to advocate and sign on to a support letter. A City of Seattle presentation revealed a 20% homeownership rate for Black people and 30% for Hispanics, compared to a 65% rate of Whites. Habitat for Humanity is working to mobilize the marginalized communities of color.

Commissioner Sardinias: Have you guys been talking to the foreclosure fairness stakeholder group and others who have been working for housing equity over the years?

Adan Espino: Yes, we have met with the Low-Income Housing Alliance and others but we are doing this as a proviso and not a bill. Then we will gather a tally and begin to address the budget chairs. We want the social justice angle because in the past only lip service has been given to the issue.

Commissioner Sardinias: Does your proviso, in the effort to fund affordable housing for Black communities, compete with other bills or complicate the goal of homeownership?

Espino: Thank you for the question. Our aim is real action. We definitely need those on the commission to assist with the individuals who should be on the workgroup.

Commissioner Franklin Phillips: Have you considered any of the faith-based community that is involved in housing? I'd be willing to help connect you with those groups.

Commissioner Quinn: Explicitly saying “by no way does this proviso compete...” is a commitment to institutional change. There have been plenty of affordable housing approaches that were denied or flipped because it didn't appeal to a few legislators' interests. It should be about addressing the disparities that exist and that people of color and African Americans have been denied through systems

Preston: The win we want to come away with more incentivization. HUD is who we go to for racial demographics – never been a priority for the other groups. Looking to begin a movement where dollars and policy can make a real difference this time instead of just lip service.

Commissioner Kendricks: The effort is definitely needed in Spokane. I can assist with outreach to the faith community here. Just send me an email.

Preston: Please send groups our way. A coalition is needed to keep the momentum.

Espino: Thank you for your support and suggestions in the areas where I did not think to question. That input is very helpful.

4:25 PM – Commission enters Executive Session

4:39 PM – Commission Executive Session Ends

4:40 PM - Motion by Commissioner Sardinias to maintain Commissioner Hausa as Chair and Commissioner Franklin Phillips as Vice-Chair

Motion seconded by Commissioner Kendricks

Discussion: Statements by Commissioner Quinn and Sardinias: A lot is ahead of us in 2021 and we have to work smarter and not harder. Our legacy is still being written – are now building and maximizing via the window now that it is open. I hope we keep it wide open; were committed and bring passion and if we can transform that into something tactical and place emphasis on the relationship – because were all connected. We are a representation of the Great Migration and we have an opportunity to realize the opportunities in front of us. We can make things better for those behind us and make things better than the way we found it.

Unanimous voice vote. No objections. Commission leadership to be retained for 2021

Next CAAA meeting scheduled for Friday, March 19, 2021 via Zoom.

No other commission business

4:55 PM - Meeting adjourned