**Tulsa Women's Commission**

Regular Meeting| October 4, 2024 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center| Committee Room 411

**Meeting Minutes**

Commissioners Present: Susan Crenshaw, Mary Quinn Cooper, Dezeray Edwards, Laura Latta, Meg Myers Morgan, Kate Neary

Commissioners Absent: Premadonna Braddick, Ashleigh Frohrip, Betsy Jackson, Charisa Jacobs, Deidra Kirtley, Janet Levit, Amy Mariska, Maria Carlota Palacios

Mayor’s Appointee Present: Susan Bynum

1. **Call to Order and Introductions**
	1. Chairwoman Latta called the meeting to order at 12:03.
	2. Commissioners introduced themselves.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** – not at quorum, did not vote on minutes.
3. **Guest Speaker: Abisoye Ajayi, Manager of Community Relations of Tulsa Innovation Labs**
	1. Commissioner Edwards provided context for Abisoye Ajayi’s presentation and Chairwoman Latta introduced her.
	2. Tulsa Innovation Labs was piloted by the George Kaiser Family Foundation on the premise that Tulsa has the ingredients to be a thriving tech hub, which will create good jobs.
		1. First tech-led economic development strategy in Tulsa.
	3. Tulsa Innovation Labs’s (TIL) Goal is to create good jobs for Tulsans that provide a career path & future for family & community.
	4. Abisoye spoke about the journey to secure the national tech hub designation for Tulsa. Selection was from 300+ applications.
	5. 3 main goals of TIL: Creation of jobs, creation of companies, increase of global market share
	6. 5 initiatives: Applied research commercialization, secure autonomy feedback and evaluation testbed, Tulsa advanced research and manufacturing acceleration coalition, Greenwood AI/AS Center of Excellence, autonomous systems workforce program
		1. Designed to build on current strengths and address challenges.
		2. By 2033, TIL initiatives aim to capture 1.6 B of 1.4 T global market in automatic systems.
			1. 56,000 jobs created, goal that 20,000 will be filled by women.
			2. Currently 33% representation of women
			3. Commissioner Edwards: How do we help ensure women are qualified and prepared and aware of these jobs?
				1. Susan Bynum: At OU’s Polytechnic school, current students are at least 25% women. More women attend higher education than men.
				2. Chairwoman Latta: Helping with an autonomous systems workforce program at Tulsa Higher Education Consortium, working on recruiting and retaining women and supporting them through program completion has been at the forefront at every conversation.
		3. Addressing disparities in building a skilled workforce.
			1. Talent training program in partnership with trusted orgs to address gender and racial gap (Women & BIPOC).
			2. Giving young folks a compelling reason to stay in Tulsa.
	7. Commissioner Comments
		1. Commissioner Crenshaw: Young folks were drawn to OSU-IT in Okmulgee because it’s hands on and traditional four-year school path wasn’t for them. Difficult to bring in women techs, something that OSU-IT is working on.
		2. Commissioner Edwards: Some folks have amazing degrees and need to continue their education, or their knowledge will become stale. Many women have degrees and want to retool so we need certification programs.
	8. Question & Answer
		1. Chairwoman Latta: Tulsa has about a 50/50 split between “traditional” learners and adult learners. What is the thinking around K-12 education in tech?
			1. Abisoye: Filling the gap between K-12 and college is something that’s being worked on. Many certifications require that an individual is 18+ years of age, but there are many 15 or 16 year olds who are smart and ready to work. Will find more info.
		2. Vice Chair Neary: What are practical things the commission can advice the Mayor’s office on related to women’s issues that will support TIL’s work?
			1. Abisoye: Agree we need to prioritize women’s issues. Need to listen to people and their challenges. Will follow up with more specifics.
			2. Commissioner Crenshaw suggested Levi at Tulsa Regional Stem Alliance to speak to K-12.
4. **Chair/Vice Chair Report**
	1. Chairwoman Latta shared that Pinnacle Award nominations closed this week and checked that nomination committee members received email with next steps. YWCA will follow up with meeting dates.
	2. Vice Chair Neary shared about cross-commission quarterly Chair/Vice Chair meeting.
5. **Identify New Human Rights Commission Representative**
	1. Chairwoman Latta raised that TWC needs a new representative for the Human Rights Commission, highlighted Commissioner Levitt’s previous service on that commission. Commitment is to attend HRC meetings, one hour per month.
	2. Krystal shared that the meetings are the 3rd Monday of each month at 3:30. HRC may conduct research, look at data, and advocate for human rights. Similar to TWC, they are an advisory body. This year, they are focused on civic engagement as it relates to human rights and a thriving democracy. Appointments are for one year and the new representative will be formally appointed to both commissions.
	3. Commissioner Edwards volunteered.
6. **New Business** – no new business
7. **Old Business**
	1. Childcare and Working Families Day Proclamation
		1. Positive feedback from commissioners in attendance.
		2. Proclamation will happen in October.
8. **Announcements**
9. **Adjournment**
	1. Meeting adjourned at 1:01.