



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 27, 2024

6:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL

Approved: March 26, 2024

Call to Order

Lyddane called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Alyssa Nydegger, Allyson Dean, Jamie Jones, and Robyn Davis

Members absent: Miriam Cummins (excused), Greg Soriano

The commissioners introduced themselves for the benefit of new member Alyssa Nydegger.

Election of officers: chair and vice-chair

6:07 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner Robyn Davis moved to table the elections of a new chair and vice-chair positions until the next meeting March 26, 2024. Commissioner Allyson Dean seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Business from the public

6:09 p.m.

There was no business from the public.

Approval of January 23, 2024, minutes

6:09 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner Allyson Dean moved to approve the January 23, 2024, minutes. Commissioner Robyn Davis seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Guest speaker: Emma Eaton of the Cumberland church Events Center

6:10 p.m.

Emma Eaton was unable to make the meeting.

Guest speaker: Councilor Dr. Ramycia McGhee

6:10 p.m.

Councilor Dr. Ramycia McGhee joined the meeting at 6:15 p.m. and contributed her thoughts throughout the remainder of the meeting. She said that her goal is to attend an HRC meeting every other month.

Land acknowledgement recommendation to the City Council

6:10 p.m.

Staff liaison Kim Lyddane reached out to Councilor Marilyn Smith to get her thoughts on the recommendations since, a while back, she, along with former Councilor Stacy Bartholemew, had reached out to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to gain their perspective on a land acknowledgement. In her research, Lyddane obtained a basic rough draft of the beginnings of an acknowledgement. On February 2, 2024, Lyddane emailed the Grand Ronde tribe to get their input on the acknowledgement but has yet to receive a response. In speaking with Councilor Smith, Lyddane senses that the City Council is open to pursuing an acknowledgement.

Because there has not yet been a response from the tribe, Lyddane said there is not enough time to incorporate the acknowledgement with the reopening of Monteith Riverpark. Davis has researched best practices of what other cities similar to our population have done. The City of Corvallis erected a monument at the Riverfront Commemorative Park to recognize the Mary's River band of the Kalapuya Tribe. The commission would like to involve the Arts Commission with the implementation of an acknowledgement. Lyddane is seeking contacts for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Once she receives input from the tribe, she and Davis will meet to craft wording for an acknowledgement to present to the City Council.

HRC name change recommendations

6:15 p.m.

The subcommittee did not meet. Dean reconfirmed her support to Davis to help craft a memo to the City Council. Davis will email Dean to set up a meeting time.

Annual Report

6:16 p.m.

The group decided that a piece of the report will contain the past year's accomplishments, but the main focus will be on their goals and direction for the future with an announcement of their proposed name change. McGhee offered to provide some additional name choices for the commission to consider. She informed the group of the Advocacy Community Commission at Linn Benton Community College (LBCC) that she is a part of. She will get back to the group with their upcoming meeting schedule. At the March meeting, after hearing what the subcommittee has formalized for the name change, the group can discuss the completion of the report and which month they would like to present the report to the City Council.

Event debriefs and potential event involvement

6:32 p.m.

Dean reported that LBCC's unity celebration is tentatively set for April 4 at 6:00 pm. McGhee will let Executive Director of Institutional Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Jason Dorsette know that the HRC is interested in supporting the celebration.

Business from the commission

6:34 p.m.

Davis gave an update on the Community Development Block Grant process status.

Dean made a request for the commission to have an in person two-hour retreat type meeting in May or June. When the final commission appointment has been made Lyddane will poll the group for a preferred date. That and the regular meeting time, format, and frequency will be discussed at the next meeting.

Staff updates

Lyddane invited the group to listen to the March 11, 2024, City Council work session meeting where the Americans with Disabilities Act transition plan the City has been working on will be presented. She also invited them to attend the Deerfield Park rehabilitation community input meeting at the Riverfront Community Center February 28 at 6:00 p.m. Lyddane informed the group that the Parks and Recreation Department will have employment opportunities available for the upcoming summer activities. She encouraged them to let their networks know about the openings.

Next meeting date

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Lyddane adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Signature on file

Signature on file

Gina Burrese
Recorder

Kim Lyddane
Staff Liaison