



## HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

### MINUTES

February 28, 2023

7:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL

Approved: April 25, 2023

#### Call to Order

Vice-Chair Miriam Cummins called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

#### Introduction of new members

#### Roll Call

Members present: Miriam Cummins, Keith Kolkow, Robyn Davis, Jamie Jones, Greg Soriano, Allyson Dean, and Elyn Fisher

Members absent: None

#### Election of officers

**Nomination:** Commissioner Robyn Davis nominated Keith Kolkow for the position of Chair. Hearing no other nominations, Kolkow was elected to the position of Chair 7-0.

**Nomination:** Commissioner Greg Soriano nominated Miriam Cummins for the position of Vice-Chair. Hearing no other nominations, Cummins was elected to the position of Vice-Chair 7-0.

#### Business from the public

There was no business from the public.

**7:18 p.m.**

#### Approval of January 24, 2023, minutes

**Motion:** Cummins moved to approve the January 24, 2023, minutes. Commissioner Allyson Dean seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

#### Guest speaker: Ty Anderson-Hubler with Kids for the Culture

**7:19 p.m.**

Ty Anderson-Hubler introduced herself to the group and explained her background. She is a coordinator for the Linn Benton Health Equity Alliance and the new director for Kids For The Culture, a nonprofit 501c3 originally founded in Eugene, Oregon. The organization recently moved its base to the Albany/Corvallis area and exists to foster positive racial identity development for the population of Black youth. Kids For The Culture celebrated Black History Month by presenting a variety of free culturally enriching activities at the Albany Public Library each Saturday in February. Mayor Alex Johnson II participated in the events. The organization has programs planned for Black youth only and programs for everyone. They also plan to provide learning opportunities to non-Black individuals who provide care or support to Black youth.

Their website is [www.kidsfortheculture.org](http://www.kidsfortheculture.org), which will have volunteer opportunities listed once they have attained the needed staffing for this area. The focus right now is on the middle-school age group.

Meeting frequency, day, time, and format

**7:36 p.m.**

The group decided to continue meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month, but to change the time from 7:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. They will not be meeting in December and possibly not in November. The format will continue to be virtual, with an in-person meeting a couple of times a year. The goal is to conduct the in-person meetings during the warmer months with a meal and to provide childcare. The commissioners will come back to the March meeting with some possible dates for the in-person meetings.

Human Relations Award

**7:54 p.m.**

There were no new nominations. Kolkow requested that staff send the group a list of the previous award winners and nominees to aid them in soliciting nominations.

Staff will also send the group an updated commission roster.

HRC project updates

The group will work on reassessing their projects to make sure they are achievable. At the next meeting they will set priorities as a whole.

Coffee with a Commissioner: Commissioner Jamie Jones will investigate having the event either at Margins Coffee or LBCC's Roast Runners Coffee Shop. Commissioners Elyn Fisher and Dean will work with Jones on this project.

Community Walk: Soriano will work on conducting another community walk. The event would possibly be held at the Talking Water Gardens sometime in August (not during the Northwest Art & Air Festival). Soriano will ask the mayor to participate. He plans to include a food drive with the event.

Food Cart: The group is considering making this project a part of the annual Pride March. As part of the march, Kolkow has an application process in place for food trucks.

Cummins is considering holding a video game competition as a project.

Presenting 2022 annual report

Kolkow will ask former commissioner Stephanie Newton for the report. Staff will schedule the report presentation for the March 22 City Council agenda.

HRC event debriefs and potential event involvement

Fisher attended the Black History Month events at the Albany Public Library. She would like to see the celebration expand to the downtown area. Kolkow will provide Fisher with contact information for the Landmark Commission members who could also be interested in seeing that happen.

Kolkow attended the NAACP Black History Month grand finale event at the Albany Historic Carousel & Museum.

Business from the commission

There was no business from the commission.

Staff updates

There were no updates at this time.

Next meeting date

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Kolkow adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Signature on file*

Gina Burrese  
Recorder

Reviewed by,

*Signature on file*

Kim Lyddane  
Staff Liaison