



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

May 23, 2023

6:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL

Approved: June 27, 2023

Call to Order

Chair Keith Kolkow called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Keith Kolkow, Robyn Davis, Jamie Jones (6:36 p.m.), Allyson Dean (6:38 p.m.), and Greg Soriano

Members absent: Miriam Cummins (excused) and Elyn Fisher

Business from the public

6:36 p.m.

There was no business from the public.

Approval of April 25, 2023, minutes

Motion: Commissioner Jamie Jones moved to approve the April 25, 2023, minutes. Commissioner Robyn Davis seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

NAACP Community Coordination Chair Wendy Sutton

6:38 p.m.

Wendy Sutton, Community Coordination Chair for the NAACP, shared information about the upcoming Juneteenth celebration on June 19, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at C3 in Corvallis. Parks and Recreation Director Kim Lyddane, Sutton, and Commissioners spoke about tabling and Sutton asked that the City of Albany develop a mechanism to fund local events. Kolkow said he would put the request for a Human Relations Commission budget into the Commission's annual report to the City Council.

Human Relations Commission's name

6:49 p.m.

Kolkow introduced the item and said he believes that, after reviewing the mission of the Commission and the language in the Albany Municipal Code, he believes that the name "Human Rights Commission" more closely aligns with the mission of the Commission. Commissioners were open to the idea of changing the Commission's name and also suggested names such as the Albany Equity and Inclusion Commission; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission; and Equity Commission.

At the request of Commissioner Allyson Dean, the topic was continued onto the agenda for the next meeting to give commissioners time to evaluate the Municipal Code establishing the commission and to evaluate different names.

Presenting 2022 annual report and awards

6:59 p.m.

The Human Relations Commission is schedule to present its annual report and awards at the June 14, 2023, Alban City Council meeting.

HRC project updates

7:02 p.m.

- a. Festival Latino: Lyddane has met with members of the Linn-Benton Hispanic Advisory Committee about Festival Latino. Lyddane said the City cannot take on new projects right now without direction from the City Council or City Manager's Office to remove current projects. Jones said this subgroup has not met since the previous HRC meeting.
- b. Coffee with a Commissioner: Dean said the subgroup met and the next step is to set locations across the city, in each city ward, for the coffee events. Dean asked for location suggestions.
- c. Community Walk: Soriano said there is a tentative date of September 9, 2023, for the community walk and discussed food cart processes with Lyddane.

Event debriefs and potential event involvement

7:09 p.m.

Kolkow spoke about an upcoming housing forum, 6:00 p.m. on May 24, 2023, for members of the LGBTQ community to share their experiences with housing at the main library in Albany. Kolkow also mentioned the upcoming Juneteenth celebration and Albany Pride.

Business from the commission

Davis spoke about the importance of democracy and about the legislative walkouts by the State Senate Republicans in the 2023 legislative session.

Motion: Davis moved that Chair Keith Kolkow ask the city council to address state legislators not showing up for work. Dean seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

Dean expressed concern about attendance at commission meetings. Deputy City Clerk Gabe Shepherd said the city has an attendance policy for citizen advisory groups that can be distributed to commissioners.

Dean and Lyddane spoke about Americans with Disabilities Act compliance across the city and about the parks ADA transition plan. Commissioners volunteered to help with a community accessibility survey and set the item as a topic for the July meeting. Kolkow spoke about portable ADA compliant ramps for the Parks department.

Staff updates

7:23 p.m.

Lyddane asked members to consider changing the commission's meeting time to better accommodate people's schedules. Lyddane also said the parks department has lanyards for commissioners.

Next meeting date

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Kolkow adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Signature on file

Signature on file

Gabe Shepherd
Deputy City Clerk

Kim Lyddane
Staff Liaison