



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

June 27, 2023

6:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL

Approved: July 25, 2023

Call to Order

Chair Keith Kolkow called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Keith Kolkow, Allyson Dean, Greg Soriano, and Robyn Davis

Members absent: Jamie Jones (excused), Elyn Fisher (unexcused), and Miriam Cummins (unexcused)

Business from the public

6:33 p.m.

There was no business from the public.

Approval of May 23, 2023, minutes

Motion: Commissioner Robyn Davis moved to approve the May 23, 2023, minutes. Commissioner Alyson Dean seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Human Relations Commission's name

6:35 p.m.

The staff liaison, Parks & Recreation Director Kim Lyddane, will check with City Manager Peter Troedsson on a time that will work for Kolkow and another HRC representative to have a discussion with the City Council about changing its name to better reflect its purpose.

HRC meeting time and attendance policy

6:46 p.m.

Kolkow pointed out the policy included in the meeting's agenda packet. Lyddane will survey the group to see which of three meeting time options works best: 6:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., or 7:00 p.m.

HRC project updates

6:40 p.m.

- a. Coffee with a Commissioner: Dean will coordinate with Davis and Commissioner Jamie Jones before next month's meeting to reserve a location. When the location and date are decided, staff will create a flyer for the event.
- b. Community Walk: The NAACP, Grace Lutheran Church, and the Roller Derby Girls all expressed to Commissioner Greg Soriano that they are interested in helping with this. The walk will be September 9, at 10:00 a.m., at the Talking Water Gardens. Lyddane will confirm with public works that this date will not conflict with any other happenings on the trail. Dean suggested naming the event "Walk and Roll" since they are including those who use wheelchairs.

Event debriefs and potential event involvement

6:50 p.m.

Lyddane announced that the Arts Commission will be hosting a table at the Albany Farmers' Market. Their goal is to express their desire to work with and make themselves available to the community. She

invited the HRC to host alongside them. Kolkow could attend the Saturday July 8 and 22 markets. Davis can attend the July 22 market. Lyddane will organize a combined table hosting for July 22.

Kolkow gave a report on the prior weekend's Albany Pride event. He read a letter* he created to send to the different City departments who supported the event to express his gratitude. The letter highlighted some of the notable accomplishments of the festival.

Davis, who is a part of the Community Development Commission, encouraged the group to look at the housing implementation plan and to submit feedback.

Business from the commission 7:00

7:00 p.m.

Kolkow will invite Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Director Kelsey Nava-Costales of the Greater Albany Public School System to the July HRC meeting.

Lyddane was asked if there were any planned murals for the Monteith Park upgrade. She explained that there were none at this time. The department is working with Pacific Power to freshen up the electrical pilings in the park, but Pacific Power would have to grant permission to paint anything on them. Lyddane noted that the Arts Commission does have plans for murals around the city and that Mayor Alex Johnson II is writing a grant for one.

Dean reported coming across swastika graffiti on the green electrical boxes on the Monteith walking trail and asked about the process for reporting the graffiti and its clean-up. Lyddane explained that graffiti is reported to the police department and then either an officer, a City employee, or a volunteer will clean it up as soon as possible. Dean would like to see some community education take place on the meaning of the swastika, so younger people are aware of the history behind it and its hateful connotation. The group would also like to see the reporting and clean-up process listed on the City's website and specifically the HRC page. Lyddane will ask about it.

Staff updates

7:11 p.m.

No updates at this time.

Next meeting date

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Kolkow adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Signature on file

Signature on file

Gina Burrese
Recorder

Kim Lyddane
Staff Liaison

*Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. The documents are available by emailing cityclerk@cityofalbany.net.