



## HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

### MINUTES

January 25, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Remote

Approved: February 22, 2022

#### Call to Order

Chair Stephanie Newton called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

#### Roll Call

Members present: Jamie Jones, Miriam Cummins, Stephanie Newton, Robyn Davis, and Greg Soriano.

Members absent: Keith Kolkow (unexcused).

#### Election of Officers

**7:02 p.m.**

Commissioner Jamie Jones introduced herself to the commission.

**Nomination:** Commissioner Miriam Cummins nominated herself for the position of Vice-Chair. Hearing no other nominations, Cummins was elected to the position of Vice-Chair 5-0.

**Nomination:** Commissioner Stephanie Newton nominated herself for the position of Chair. Hearing no other nominations, Newton was elected to the position of Chair 5-0.

#### Business from the Public

**7:05 p.m.**

None.

#### Approval of November 16, 2021 Minutes

**7:06 p.m.**

**Motion:** Commissioner Robyn Davis moved to approve the November 16, 2021, minutes as presented. Commissioner Greg Soriano seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

#### 2021 Annual Report Presentation to City Council

**7:07 p.m.**

Commissioners agreed to schedule their annual report to the city council on February 23, 2022. Parks & Recreation Director Kim Lyddane suggested a length of 10-15 minutes for the presentation.

#### HRC proposed project updates

**7:08 p.m.**

##### Newton: Farmers Market

Newton said she plans on the HRC hosting an information table on Saturdays at the farmers' market during the 2022 season.

##### Cummins: Food Trucks

Cummins said she plans on delaying the food truck event she was going to plan until later in the year due to COVID-19.

Soriano spoke about a cultural competency class he took as a training for work. He suggested the HRC host a similar class for the community. Cummins said she would like to have conversations like this one about justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Soriano offered to recruit Dr. Kohli, who taught his class, to speak.

2021 Human Relations Awards

**7:16 p.m.**

Since the 2020 Human Relations Awards were delayed and happened only recently, it was decided to start the 2021 awards process with promotion in July, application deadline in October, voting in November, and presenting the awards in December.

HRC Event Debriefs and Upcoming Events from HRC Calendar

**7:18 p.m.**

Newton shared a flier\* for an upcoming event on January 29, 2022, Community & Immunity Day Fair. Newton asked that commissioners and the City help promote the event.

Highlights From this Meeting for 2022 Annual Report Preparation

**7:21 p.m.**

The election of officers and the addition of Jones to the commission will be the report's highlights for this meeting.

Business from the Commission

**7:21 p.m.**

Davis spoke about the video project of former commissioner Juan Meave and suggested that the commission put together posts highlighting various food carts in the community. Davis suggested the posts contain interviews with the owners and said it could lead into Cummins' idea for the food cart event.

Lyddane suggested including a bingo or passport element to highlighting the food trucks and suggested that the Chamber of Commerce might be a community partner for this effort. Davis and Jones agreed to become a subcommittee to work on this idea, and present information at the next meeting.

Soriano said he is thinking about organizing another community walk, perhaps around Linn-Benton Community College (LBCC). Newton noted an upcoming multicultural fair at LBCC and Lyddane suggested Soriano coordinate with LBCC's new Executive Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Jason Dorsette.

The group would like to promote the HRC meetings and ask members of the public to share ideas. Cummins asked for the City to promote the meetings on social media and suggested creating a promotional flier in both English and Spanish.

In review of the 2020 census and the Statistical Transparency of Policing Report, Newton noted that Black and Latino members of the community accounted for a disproportionately high percentage of police stops. The group decided to invite Police Chief Marcia Harnden to speak at the next commission meeting.

Staff Updates

**7:32 p.m.**

Lyddane noted that Cummins and Soriano were both reappointed to the commission and that there is a vacancy which is to be appointed by Councilor Bessie Johnson.

Davis noted that she was just elected as the Vice-Chair of the Community Development Commission.

Lyddane said the City is creating and updating an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan and is looking for people identifying as members of the ADA community to be a part of the City's advisory group. Lyddane also said the City is developing a Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan and will be soliciting feedback about what people believe are the city's biggest vulnerabilities.

Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Newton adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Signature on file*

Gabriel Shepherd  
Recorder

Reviewed by,

*Signature on file*

Kim Lyddane  
Parks & Recreation Director

*\*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](mailto:cityclerk@cityofalbany.net).*