



## HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

### MINUTES

March 22, 2022

7:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL

Approved: April 26, 2022

#### Call to Order

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

#### Introduction of New Member

Commissioner Sonja Neperud introduced herself to the group by telling some of her background.

#### Roll Call

Members present: Miriam Cummins, Stephanie Newton, Robyn Davis, Keith Kolkow, Sonja Neperud, and Greg Soriano

Members absent: Jamie Jones (unexcused)

#### Business from the Public

**7:04 p.m.**

There was no business from the public

#### Approval of February 22, 2022, Minutes

**7:04 p.m.**

Vice Chair Miriam Cummins said she would like to assist with any plans the City might have with the Local Government Hispanic Network, Newton noted that the HRC and the Hispanic Advisory Committee will have a joint meeting in May and then continue to meet on a quarterly basis.

**Motion:** Chair Newton moved to approve the February 22, 2022, minutes. Vice Chair Cummins seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Newton asked for an updated commission roster to be sent out to the group.

#### Meeting options since mask mandate lifted

**7:11 p.m.**

Cummins said she would like the HRC to conduct meetings in person. Commissioner Robyn Davis agreed but is willing to go with a hybrid format. Neperud and Newton prefer meeting virtually. Commissioner Keith Kolkow and Commissioner Greg Soriano said that they would be fine either way.

HRC meetings are in the same week as both the City Council's work session and their regular council meeting. In light of this, Parks & Recreation Director Kim Lyddane asked if the group would like to move the meetings to a different Tuesday of the month and whether they would like to change the meeting time. She will send a Doodle poll to the group. Next month's meeting will remain as scheduled.

HRC proposed project updates

**7:17 p.m.**

Community walk: Greg Soriano

Soriano joined a Zoom meeting with Executive Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Jason Dorsette, of Linn Benton Community College. Dorsette would like the City's support in an upcoming walk during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. He invited the HRC to join the Denim Day Walk on April 27, at 12:00 p.m. Soriano may speak at the event. Dorsette will send flyers to Soriano that advertise the event. Instead of spearheading a separate community walk, the group will join the Denim Day Walk.

Historic walking tour:

May is Historic Preservation Month. Kolkow and Newton will meet with the chair of the Landmarks Commission on Monday, March 28, to work out details for a historic walking tour based on the diversity of Albany. Newton connected with City Councilor Dick Olsen who gave information for resources regarding the first woman and first black person to own a business in Albany.

Kolkow put together an intersectional list for the group of yearly celebrations, remembrances, and awareness events. He will email it to Lyddane.

Food Cart: Robyn Davis

A passport program is being considered to assist in featuring the food carts' owners. Lyddane will investigate options for printing the passports. Cummins suggested combining her multicultural festival project with the food cart project. She will meet with Davis and Commissioner Jamie Jones to help plan the project.

Cummins has received feedback from community members that the HRC is not accessible. She suggested taking turns once a month to station themselves at Monteith Park, where they could give out tokens to the carousel. Discussion followed about acquiring the tokens through a donation or a grant. Newton will send Cummins the contact information for Albany Downtown Association Executive Director Lisa Grato.

HRC Event Debriefs and Upcoming Events from HRC Calendar

**7:32 p.m.**

No new events were discussed.

Highlights From this Meeting for 2022 Annual Report Preparation

**7:32 p.m.**

The HRC will highlight welcoming Neperud to the group, the evolving of the group's projects (community walk and multicultural festival), and Newton presenting the annual report at tomorrow night's city council meeting.

Business from the Commission

**7:33 p.m.**

Keith Kolkow will reach out to Linn County Public Health Harm Reduction Coordinator Gayle Woodworth to invite her to speak to the group.

Newton met with Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker to discuss homelessness in the county. He suggested she contact the Family Assistance Resource Center for additional resources. Kolkow said that the county is working to rehabilitate an old FEMA trailer into a mobile shower unit for the homeless. They need additional funding for the project. Davis relayed that the Community Development Commission has a source of funds that can be applied for through the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Neperud attended one of the Housing Affordability Task Force meetings. The meetings are every other month, with the next one being on April 13, 2022.

Staff Updates

**7:39 p.m.**

At the last city council work session, the citizens advisory groups were discussed. The groups are being reviewed and modifications are being considered for the sake of efficiency and their overall fit within the city's strategic plan. Some groups may be consolidated, but the HRC will remain as is. Lyddane asked the group to evaluate how often they need to meet.

Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Tuesday, April 26, 2022.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Newton adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

*Signature on file*

*Signature on file*

Gina Burrese  
Recorder

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).*