



## HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

### MINUTES

April 26, 2022

7:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL

Approved: May 24, 2022

#### Call to Order

Chair Stephanie Newton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### Roll Call

Members present: Miriam Cummins (left at 7:28 p.m.), Stephanie Newton, Robyn Davis, Keith Kolkow, Greg Soriano, and Jamie Jones (arrived at 7:33 p.m.)

Members absent: Sonja Neperud (excused)

#### Business from the Public

**7:01 p.m.**

City of Albany Communications and Engagement Officer Matt Harrington announced the Albany Public Library's Spanish mural project. The project idea was first introduced in 2019 in conjunction with the Arts Commission but was put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One intent for the mural would be to bring attention to the Spanish material collection at the library. If the HRC is interested, the thought is to have a subcommittee of both the HRC and the planning commission, along with Albany's high school art students, plan the project.

#### Approval of March 22, 2022, Minutes

**7:07 p.m.**

**Motion:** Vice Chair Miriam Cummins moved to approve the March 22, 2022, minutes. Commissioner Keith Kolkow seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

#### Guest speaker: Gayle Woodworth of Linn County Public Health

**7:08 p.m.**

Gayle Woodworth is the new Linn County Harm Reduction Coordinator. Woodworth explained her background and her plans. She does rapid HIV, hepatitis C, and syphilis testing anywhere needed and she hands out safe sex kits. Woodworth listed disease and drug statistics, noting the rise in cases of hepatitis and fentanyl overdoses. Her intent is to educate and destigmatize the various diseases and people who do drugs, so more people seek help.

Woodworth said that the program is very new, and she is just beginning to form relationships. The HRC could help by getting the word out about the program. She will keep the HRC in mind for future projects/events where they could volunteer. Woodworth will get back to the HRC on where to get test kits to find if fentanyl is present in products.

#### Meeting format and frequency

**7:28 p.m.**

The HRC decided to keep their meetings at 7:00 p.m., on the fourth Tuesday of the month in every month except December. Moving forward, they will use a hybrid format. The group committed to letting staff know a week ahead of time if they plan on coming in person, so that staff can prepare meeting room logistics, building security, and meeting notifications to the public. In three months, the

group will reevaluate this format and frequency to assess whether there has been enough meeting material for the number of meetings and that quorums are being met.

HRC proposed project updates

**7:37 p.m.**

Historic walking tour: Stephanie Newton

The tour will have eight to ten stops highlighting historic minority figures in the community. The tour will be a combination of self-guided and guided exhibits, with the dates to be determined.

Saturday Market: Stephanie Newton

Every other or every third Saturday, the HRC will have a presence at the farmers' market with a different topic to share. A sign-up list with the topics will be made available.

HRC Event Debriefs and Upcoming Events from HRC Calendar

**7:40 p.m.**

A Juneteenth event for Albany and Corvallis will be held at LBCC. The group would like to invite the coordinator of the event to speak at the next HRC meeting and share how the HRC could volunteer and provide promotional support.

Parks & Recreation Director Kim Lyddane will notify the group regarding a subcommittee who will plan the City's booth at the Pride Rally/March. Last year each participating city department or group had their own table at the event, but to maximize space, the interested parties will share a table.

Highlights From this Meeting for 2022 Annual Report Preparation

**7:44 p.m.**

The group will highlight Linn County Harm Reduction Coordinator Gayle Woodworth's presentation.

The group decided to invite Woodworth back next year to give an update on the county's program.

Business from the Commission

**7:45 p.m.**

There was no business from the commission.

Staff Updates

**7:45 p.m.**

The citizens advisory group discussion is continuing with the City Council, and Lyddane will notify the group when the discussion is back on their agenda.

Several City departments are recruiting to fill job openings. They are looking to fill both full and part-time positions and are looking for individuals who speak Spanish. Lyddane asked the group to send anyone interested to the City's website to apply. The City's goal is to have a workforce that reflects the community.

Lyddane announced that she plans on attending two more HRC meetings after which she will be on maternity leave for three months. She will notify the group when she knows who her replacement will be as liaison.

Kolkow stated that he would like to see the creation of a diversity and inclusion position at the City. It was decided that Kolkow, Commissioner Robyn Davis, and Commissioner Jamie Jones will seek a meeting with the City's manager to discuss the position.

Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Tuesday, May 24, 2022.

Member of the public Sonlla Heern announced an event that the local Bahá'í Faith community is planning. The first weekend in June they will be hosting a conference promoting the wellbeing of humanity as a whole and celebrating diversity and inclusiveness. Heern will notify the group when the details are ironed out.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Newton adjourned the meeting at 7:54 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).*