



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

August 23, 2022

7:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL

Approved: September 27, 2022

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

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

Members absent: Sonja Neperud (excused)

Business from the public

7:04 p.m.

Member of the public Kimya Massey introduced himself as being a member of the community for seven years and as the Chief Diversity Officer for Oregon State University. He works with under-represented groups and has witnessed different challenges in the community. Massey is interested on serving on the commission and has turned in an application.

Approval of July 26, 2022, minutes

7:19 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner Miriam Cummins moved to approve the July 26, 2022, minutes. Commissioner Robyn Davis seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

GAPS Superintendent Andy Gardner

7:20 p.m.

Superintendent Andy Gardner was hired by the Greater Albany Public Schools (GAPS) and will begin on July 1, 2022. He is working toward completing a strategic plan based around priorities set by a community committee under the direction of the previous superintendent.

When asked if he had any data on students that were leaving this district for neighboring districts, Gardner explained that compared to other districts, Albany did a better job at retaining students during the COVID-19 pandemic and receives more funding because of the higher number of students.

Newton will contact Gardner to discuss educational disparities and some issues she has come across. She will report back to the commission.

GAPS has added a recruiter who works to recruit and retain employees of underserved communities. The school system received a grant to employ two ombud persons to work in the high schools to represent minority students.

HRC proposed project updates

7:40 p.m.

Commissioner Keith Kolkow, Commissioner Greg Soriano, Commissioner Jamie Jones, and Newton will work in shifts to host a booth at the September 3, 2022, Farmers' Market.

Davis read a resolution* that the Edmonds, Washington City Council recently passed in support of abortion rights. Newton and Davis will work on formatting it into a proclamation that can be presented to the City Council.

HRC event debriefs and upcoming events from HRC calendar

7:47 p.m.

Jones reported that she was not accepted to this round of the Welcoming America learning lab. Kolkow receives emailed updates from Welcoming America for the Welcoming Week event.

Newton will forward information to the group for a workshop training on recognizing and reporting bias incidents.

Highlights From this meeting for 2022 annual report preparation

7:50 p.m.

The group decided to highlight Massey's visit and the discussion with Superintendent Andy Gardner, along with the progress on the HRC projects.

Business from the commission

7:51 p.m.

The group discussed using Welcoming America's Welcoming Week as an educational topic to focus on at the upcoming Farmers' Market.

Staff updates

7:52 p.m.

There were no updates for this meeting.

Next meeting date

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, September 27, 2022.

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

Matt Harrington
Communications and Engagement Officer

**Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record*