

City of Bend
Human Rights and Equity Commission
May 31, 2023
Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Human Rights and Equity Commission (HREC) was called to order at 4:39 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, in Council Chambers at City Hall, 710 NW Wall Street, Bend, OR 97703, and virtually.

1. **Roll Call:** Commissioners Jasmine Wilder, Manoj Alipuria, Brittany Brown, Cameron Fischer, Joanne Mina, Carolyn Peacock-Biggs, Erin Maher, Jeff Kitchens, Linda Long (present virtually), Sergio Retamal (present virtually), Mo Mitchell, Stephen Sehgal

Absent: Jasmine Wilder (excused), Manoj Alipuria (excused), Brittany Brown (unexcused), Mo Mitchell (unexcused), Stephen Sehgal (excused)

2. **Acknowledgements**

A. Commissioner Kitchens read the land acknowledgement.

3. **Approval of March 29, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Peacock-Biggs moved to approve the March 29, 2023 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Maher seconded. **Voice vote** – Vice Chair Mina, Commissioners Peacock-Biggs, Fischer, Maher, Kitchens, Long, Retamal, Yes 7 No 0

4. **City of Bend Update**

Vice Chair Mina introduced Chief Innovation Officer Stephanie Betteridge. Betteridge updated the Commission on the following items:

- City staff presented the 2023-2025 budget to the Budget Committee, who accepted it with minor changes. Betteridge noted that was a significant accomplishment and that the budget would go to Council at its June 21 meeting.
 - Vice Chair Mina asked if the budget includes funds to support actions within the HREC Action Plan. Betteridge explained the budget does include some funding that can be applied to priority projects. Vice Chair Mina asked how this committee's work had changed the budget. Betteridge noted that as the budget developed, it was focused on Council goals. Betteridge added there was considerable community engagement in the Council goal process.
- Andrés Portela will be the City's new Equity and Inclusion Director and will start on July 10, 2023. Betteridge provided an overview of Portela's experience and qualifications and noted Portela would join the HREC's July meeting.
- The vacant Volunteer Coordinator position will be recast to align with Council goals, focus on community engagement, and develop and implement the equity framework.

5. **Transportation Fee**

Senior Management Sarah Hutson and Chief Operations Officer Russ Grayson introduced themselves and provided an overview of this agenda item. Hutson presented the following slides:

- Transportation Fee & Funding Discussion
- Goals of Today's Presentation
- Council Goals

Grayson presented the following slides:

- Citywide Transportation Funding Landscape
 - Where does your property tax dollar go?
 - General Fund Revenue
 - Market Value vs. Assessed Value
 - City of Bend Property Tax Base
 - Transportation System Plan (TSP)
 - TSP Public Engagement
 - Current Revenue Sources
 - Transportation Funding Needs Through 2040
 - Recommended Funding Tools
- Importance of Street Operations & Maintenance
 - City Operations & Maintenance Programs
 - Preventative Maintenance Saves Money
 - Ongoing Funding Needed to Maintain PCI

Hutson presented the following slides:

- Transportation Fee Overview
 - What is a Transportation Fee?
 - Common Funding Tool in Oregon
 - Why now?
- Direction from Council & Next Steps
 - Transportation Fee Scope
 - Communication Strategy Options
 - Transportation Fee Timeline
 - Roundtable Participation

Hutson asked for a volunteer and a back-up volunteer from the group to participate in transportation fee roundtables; Vice Chair Mina requested that the committee assess capacity internally before committing to providing a representative.

Hutson explained the timeline of the roundtables. Grayson clarified the goal of providing a representative, provided more insight into the process, and asked if there was interest on the committee in participating in the process.

Accessibility and Equity Manager Cassandra Kehoe offered to extend the invitation to Commissioners who were not present at this meeting and asked interested Commissioners to email or text her to indicate they would like to be connected to the roundtables.

Vice Chair Mina asked who recommended how the funding would be spent. Grayson explained. Vice Chair Mina noted she had sent Hutson links to equity-centered grants.

Commissioner Long stressed the importance of HREC being involved in this process from the beginning and noted having a voice from the committee could help determine how some of the funds are directed.

Member Fischer thanked Hutson and Grayson for their presentation and asked what the end-date would be for the ADA ramps' removal and replacements. Grayson explained it goes back to funding and budgetary constraints and noted other needs and voter requests. Grayson added previous sources of funding are dwindling and staff wants to make sure this is done appropriately because it affects everyone in Bend.

Vice Chair Mina said HREC would get back to Hutson and Grayson with volunteer names.

6. Core Latinx Business Outreach

Business Advocate Allison Platt introduced Janet Sarai Llerandi, Libre Strategies consultant, and presented the following slides:

- Core Area Equity / Equidad en la Área Central
- ¿Que Hicimos? / What did we Do?
 - Outreach Events / Eventos de divulgación
 - Key Takeaways
- ¿Que hemos hecho desde que finalizamos la divulgacion a Latinos del Area Central? / What have we done since completing the Core Area Latin@ Outreach?
 - The City has . . . / La ciudad ha . . .
- Core Area Business Assistance Program / Programa de asistencia empresarial
 - Purpose / Objetivo
 - Eligibility / Eligibilidad
 - Eligible Funding
- Preguntas para la Comisión de Derechos Humanos y Equidad (HREC) / Questions for HREC

Commissioner Retamal asked whether the City tracks which businesses are Hispanic- or minority-owned. Platt explained the business license does not ask for demographic information and expressed uncertainty whether that information would be legal to store.

Commissioner Fischer asked whether it would be helpful to connect with other Latin@-owned businesses beyond the Core Area in future efforts. Platt explained the effort began with a broader focus, but because the Core Area Business Assistance Program is aimed solely at Core Area businesses, staff and consultants focused in on businesses in that district.

Llerandi provided an in-depth look at her process for reaching out to businesses and selecting the four who participated in the process. To illustrate the need and interest City-wide, Llerandi noted Latin@ business owners want to know why assistance is available only to the Core Area.

Commissioner Maher asked whether the program has considered sweat equity or volunteer hours in lieu of a cash match. Platt committed to follow up with the legal department to find an answer, but it would not be something that could be incorporated into this first round.

Commissioner Kitchens asked what other ideas the team is considering to spur engagement. Llerandi explained her work in identifying the need for a networking group locally and regionally but cautioned those efforts are still in the early stages. Commissioner Fischer asked when outreach would happen. Platt explained the application would launch by July and outreach would occur through October.

Commissioners agreed to email additional questions to Kehoe for dissemination to Platt and Llerandi.

7. HREC Workplan – Subcommittee Review / Report Out

Kehoe presented the following slide:

- HREC Workplan – Subcommittee Review + Next Steps

Kehoe briefly displayed each subcommittee's presentations and provided a quick look at what each subcommittee was working on and would soon present. Kehoe also informed the group that Commissioner Ruiz had resigned due to relocation.

8. Public Comment

- Andrés Portela, incoming Equity and Inclusion Director, introduced himself.

9. Agenda Setting & Bike Rack

Commissioner Kitchens said it would be helpful to have a conversation at the next meeting to establish a process to determine interest in assisting with various requests from City staff, in order to be able to provide a timely response to those requests. Commissioner Fischer agreed.

Commissioner Maher asked for clarification around the HREC leadership roles. Kehoe explained HREC has a safety lead, a communications position, and a Council liaison role and said Chair Alipuria may present on those roles at the June meeting.

Vice Chair Mina asked to revisit the camping code in the future.

Commissioner Fischer asked for an overview of housing and the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) and, once the new director of the Coordinated Homeless Response Office (CHRO) is identified, an overview of that organization as well. Councilor Perkins committed to working with Kehoe to secure a presentation about how the camping code is enforced in the field, as well as an overview of housing.

10. Adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Mitsch
Senior Administrative Support Specialist