

City of Bend
Human Rights and Equity Commission
June 28, 2023
Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Human Rights and Equity Commission (HREC) was called to order at 4:32 p.m. on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, in Council Chambers at City Hall, 710 NW Wall Street, Bend, OR 97703, and virtually.

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

Absent: None

2. **Acknowledgements & Announcements**

- A. Chair Alipuria informed the group Commissioner Mitchell had resigned.
- B. Chair Alipuria congratulated Commissioner Fischer for her recent election to the Bend-La Pine School Board.
- C. Commissioner Long read the Land Acknowledgement.
- D. Chair Alipuria noted the HREC presence at the 2023 Pride event and thanked Commissioners who staffed that booth.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Wilder moved to approve the May 31, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Kitchens seconded. **Voice Vote** – Chair Alipuria, Vice Chair Mina, Commissioners Peacock-Biggs, Maher, Wilder, Kitchens, Long, Retamal, Sehgal Yes 9 No 0

4. **Climate Friendly Areas Study / Stevens Road Tract Project**

Long Range Planning Manager Brian Rankin introduced himself and explained the work of the Long-Range Planning Department. Associate Planner Elyse Vuykelich, Senior Planner Jennifer Knapp, and Senior Planner Damian Syrnyk introduced themselves. Rankin provided an overview of the agenda item.

Vuykelich presented the following slides:

- Climate Friendly Areas Update
- What is a Climate Friendly Area?
- Equity Requirements of CFEC
- Equity Based Engagement
- CFA Sizing Based on CFEC Rules
- Where Should a CFA Go?
- CFA Work Map – Anti-Displacement Analysis
- CFA Timeline
- Next Steps
- Questions

Vuykelich asked whether HREC would have the time to be involved in public engagement efforts and requested the Commission's feedback on the engagement process to date.

Commissioners and staff discussed the CFA study, the pros and cons of building higher with less land vs lower with more land; Oregon's focus on going vertical to create greater housing density in urban spaces to reduce expansion outward; and whether community resistance to building higher is keeping Bend from becoming a more diverse and affordable place.

Commissioner Retamal asked for clarification on what Long-Range Planning was asking of HREC. Rankin explained his group wants HREC involved as much as Commissioners would like to be and provided more information on the anticipated public engagement process.

Commissioner Wilder stated community feedback is important but noted staff has the expertise to make data-driven decisions and then move forward with the best course of action. Commissioner Wilder emphasized the need to give the community a good solution.

Chair Alipuria stated HREC would like to come alongside the Long-Term Planning team to participate in the public engagement process.

Syrnyk presented the following slides:

- Stevens Road Tract
- Alternative 3

Commissioner Peacock-Biggs pointed out Bend's working class may make slightly too much to qualify for the Affordable units but still not be able to afford to live here. Rankin noted the 700 Affordable units slated for Stevens Ranch will not solve the housing problem, but they're one piece of the puzzle. Peacock-Biggs called for setting aside a percentage of the Affordable Units designated for the "invisible" working class (those above or below the 30-80% AMI range proposed for the Affordable units at Stevens Ranch).

Following further discussion about the need to make Affordable housing available to a wider range of incomes and some background on HB2001, Rankin stated a work session between the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) and HREC would be helpful.

Commissioners Wilder and Retamal expressed interest in being involved in the public outreach process.

5. HREC Workplan – Subcommittee Review / Report Out and Next Steps

A. Developing an Equity Framework

Chair Alipuria explained the subcommittee has developed some ideas but is pausing until Equity and Inclusion Director Andrés Portela starts his job in July.

B. Identification of Resources/Reporting Options in Response to Discrimination

Accessibility and Equity Manager Cassandra Kehoe presented the following slides:

- Resources in Response to Discrimination
- Resources in Response to Discrimination: Definitions and Scope of Work Considerations
- Individual Experiences Discrimination in Bend, OR

Kehoe explained the subcommittee has defined its scope of work and asked Commissioners if they were interested in support circles/listening sessions with members of the community. Kehoe detailed five other questions on which the subcommittee needs Commissioners' input.

Commissioner Retamal asked if data is available on the scope of the problem HREC is trying to solve. Kehoe and Assistant City Attorney Ian Leitheiser explained why that data is not available, including issues of anonymity/public record and the scope of the effort at hand. Commissioner Wilder pointed out this tool is being developed because the community has asked for something like it. Commissioner Kitchens added that a listening session will help HREC understand more about the issue, including what is formal discrimination and what is just a sense of feeling unwelcome and unsafe in the community.

Commissioner Mina stated internal resources are needed to personalize the process of providing the community with tools and opening a dialogue on bias and discrimination.

Commissioner Long encouraged the use of flyers or other paper-based methods of communication about this resource, as the unhoused do not have reliable access to phones and internet service.

Kehoe presented the following slides:

- Resources in Response to Discrimination HREC Subcommittee: Primary Research Questions
- Needed: Clear Definitions
- As we build out HREC/CoB Resources in Response to Discrimination: Consider Secondary + Vicarious Trauma Reduction/Mitigation Techniques
- Untitled slide (trauma-informed care)
- Untitled slide (branding examples)
- HREC Workplan – Subcommittee Review + Next Steps

Kehoe offered to send the five questions to Commissioners in a more readable format.

C. HREC Community Survey at Pride 2023

Kehoe presented thanked HREC Commissioners who helped survey Pride 2023 attendees.

Kehoe presented the following slides:

- HREC Community Survey at Pride 2023
- Community Survey at Pride 2023

D. Vice Chair Mina provided an update on the work of the System Development Charge (SDC) Stakeholder Group.

6. Public Comment

- Kevin Dahlgren, Portland resident and homeless advocate, stated there had not been outreach to the unhoused on Hunnell and Clausen roads. Dahlgren stressed the need to increase outreach with daily contact with these folks. Dahlgren said the system is not functioning as it should and said the outreach needs to happen so people have time to move RVs, vehicles, etc. before the clean-up. Dahlgren expressed concern for people whose vehicles need to be towed, as it is virtually impossible for the homeless to retrieve those.

Chair Alipuria thanked Dahlgren for speaking and caring for the unhoused. The Chair asked Dahlgren for messages HREC should give to Council.

Dahlgren stated the outreach currently happening on Hunnell and Clausen roads is typically in the area of offering food, but no one has offered housing or even discussed housing. Dahlgren gave examples of better questions to ask the unhoused to determine their needs and stated there is dysfunction in how the City and County work together in this area. Dahlgren called on stakeholders to meet and find a common solution.

Commissioner Fischer thanked Dahlgren for sharing comments but stated there are countless professionals in this community doing really hard work with outreach. Commissioner Fischer noted the housing crisis and said there are dedicated, hard-working, well trained professionals present in a lot of realms. Commissioner Fischer stated Dahlgren made a good point about low-barrier shelters, which the community is working toward.

Commissioner Wilder noted service providers are typically very tactful. Commissioner Wilder said there could be a need for HREC to embark on an information campaign to determine to what degree housing solutions can be offered and what the barriers are. Commissioner Wilder suggested a gap analysis of service providers.

7. Agenda Setting & Bike Rack

Commissioner Kitchens suggested allotting an hour for any speakers on future agendas, and to hold business items for a separate meeting if there is a speaker or speakers on the agenda.

8. Adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Mitsch
Senior Administrative Support Specialist