

Meeting Minutes

Human Rights and Equity Commission

May 29, 2024, Regular Hybrid Meeting



CITY OF BEND

Chair, Jeff Kitchens conducted and called the Human Rights and Equity Commission, May 29, 2024, regular hybrid meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street. Watch the [HREC May 29, 2024, livestream recording](#).

1. Roll Call: Commissioners, City Staff and Visitors.

- 1.1. Chair Jeff Kitchens, He/Him. (*Chambers*)
- 1.2. Vice Chair Carolyn Peacock-Biggs, She/Her. (*Chambers*)
- 1.3. Commissioner Connector Linda Long, She/Her. (*Excused Absence*)
- 1.4. Council Connector Jasmine Wilder, She/Her. (*Excused Absence*)
- 1.5. Cameron Fischer, She/Her. (*Virtual*)
- 1.6. Carly Colgan, She/Her. (*Chambers*)
- 1.7. Jackie Currie, She, They. (*Chambers*)
- 1.8. Manoj Alipuria, He/Him (*Absence Excused*)
- 1.9. Nancy Stevens, She/Her. (*Resigned 5/29*)

Chair Kitchens asks for identification of all individuals in the room– inclusivity that we are striving to meet.

Staff in Attendance:

- Andrés Portela, He/Him, Equity & Inclusion Director // HREC Staff Liaison. (*In Person*)
- Cassandra Kehoe, She/Her/Ella, Accessibility and Equity Manager (*In Person*)
- Stephanie Betteridge, She/Her, Assistant City Manager // Chief Innovation Officer. (*In Person*)
- Megan Perkins, She/Her, Mayor Pro Tem // HREC Council Liaison. (*In Person and Virtual*)
- Ian Leitheiser, He/Him, Assistant City Attorney. (*In Person*)
- Lisa Larsen, She/Her, Administrative Support Specialist. (*In-Person*)

Presenters:

- huong tran, She/They, Asian Pacific Islanders Collective (APIC)

2. Land Acknowledgement: Read by Commissioner Currie in English.

City of Bend Land Acknowledgement:

We would like to acknowledge that the beautiful land, known as Bend, Oregon, north to the Columbia River is the original homeland of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. The Confederated Tribes ceded this land in the Treaty of 1855 while retaining regular and customary hunting, fishing, and gathering rights. The Wana Łama (**Warm Springs**), Wasq'ú (Wasco), and Northern Paiute people inhabited this area in certain seasonal times that clearly established their presence. It is also important to note that the Klamath Trail ran north through this region to the great Celilo Falls trading grounds. This trade route expanded the impact of commerce between Tribal nations. We acknowledge and thank the original stewards of this land. It is our hope that guests continue to honor and care for this land.

3. HREC Business: Chair, Jeff Kitchens, He/Him.

3.1. Minutes Approval: Approve the April 24th, 2024, Draft Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Table the April 24th, 2024, draft minutes until the June 26th meeting. Motion to table the approval of the April 24th, draft minutes unanimously passed by all commissioners that attended today's meeting. Four in Chambers; one virtual.

3.2. Review of Agenda and Approval:

Chair Kitchen: Thoughtfulness and incredible information. There is not enough time to have discussions, reorganize agenda to allow for traditional agenda with old business, new business, conversation if needed.

Chair Kitchen: Any HREC Commissioner, you have a voice and opportunity to offer thoughts, topics. Contact Councilor Perkins, HREC Liaison Portela, if you have any questions or suggestions for future agendas.

4. Old Business: (30 minutes)

4.1. Analysis of Impediments: At the April HREC meeting, Affordable Housing Coordinator, Kamanya presented on **Analysis of Impediments (Livestream presentation recording)**, and spoke about five impediments with recommendations.

Chair Kitchens asked for suggestions on how to work collaboratively with Affordable Housing. Suggesting, if folks have the opportunity to attend the **Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAH)** meeting and come back and share information, please let the commission know.

4.2. Community Advisory Group – Fair Housing:

- Commissioner Currie mentioned, both presentations presented useful information but is not sure how to incorporate the information shared to actionable agenda items.
- Commissioner Fischer agrees it is great information, has concerns with the encouragement of taking part and representatives of these other groups. But feels that HREC is not focusing on the actual work we are tasked to do, referring to the current HREC Workplan and advisers of City Council.
- Commissioner Fischer, concerns that being encouraged to representative to other committees, capacity to cover asks in addition to workplan focus.
 - Commissioner Currie, information, what do we do with it (cannot attend a meeting in the middle of a workday).
- Chair Kitchens, good points, limited capacity for what we can take on, and be responsive to those who present to us, and move our work plan forward. Indeed, a balancing act. How best to balance workplan, presentations, etc.
- Chair Kitchens: Should we have standing agenda item as workplan?
- Vice Chair Peacock-Biggs: How to balance passions, workplan, said we would do. Should we revisit our workplan? Certain things that supersede a plan if there is a level of agency. Takes poll of renters in room. Balance agenda (three renters in room). Important that diversity shows up in room.

5. New Business:

5.1. Community Connection: Asian Pacific Islanders Collective (APIC), huong tran, She/They.

- APIC huong tran (They/Them), My name is not capitalized.
- Asian AND Pacific Islanders Collective (not just Asian Pacific Islanders Collective)
- Recognize what was just shared and hope get to a place.
- Appreciate all being here and thanks for having – typos in slide deck.
- Houg is a Brown person, Queer, Asian, diaspora.
- Asians are not a monolith, difference between Asian and Asian American.
- Interactive Presentation:
 - Social Justice and Injustice, which communities tend to be overlooked.
 - Often API community does get overlooked.

Slide Deck:

- Chinese Exclusion Act.
 - John McKee (SP) community member input.
- Huge impact on where we are today, redlining, what happened with wealth lost in internment camps, generational wealth, colonizers, and Europeans advantaged to pass wealth on from generations.
- China Hat – people go where they are not wanted in town, real things still today.
- APIC Events.
- Ask: Who is not in the room and request for more collaboration with the community.

5.2. Equity Department Presentation: HREC Workplan – Andres Portela He/Him/El, Equity & Inclusion Director.

- Commissioners plan to provide feedback into real time.
- How are we being strategic in the questions that we ask.
- Present the HREC Workplan

Slide Deck

- What do you think of current workflow? (ex: doesn't allow for much time to digest).
- Councilor Perkins: How do you best utilize roll of City Councilor HREC liaison.
- Commissioner Fischer: What have we moved in front of Council over the span of HREC.
- Vice-Chair Peacock-Biggs: Sit at first two tiers of decision-making process of the city, by the time we get info, we're fourth tier. More diversity in 1-2 tier in decision making process. We don't have yes/no/vote or a say. (Ask, who is in the room, or who is not in the room.)
- Commissioner Currie: More onboarding to HREC Commissioners, onboarding and training, the workflow example.

6. Public Comment: No Public commenters in Chamber or online.

- Chair Kitchens opened questions regarding public comment.
- Commissioner Currie: Are we doing online moderation?
 - Director Portela: talk about the process / train and re-train, better support each other, fail safes in place, empowering chair and vice chair, equity department team,
- Commissioner Fischer: Declaration and Clarity for future, not rely upon shutting down.
- Director Portela: Personal identity, rules of conduct for public comment PLSD.
- Ian Leitheiser, City Attorney Office, input on limits on what the government (us in this context) to control or regulate speech.
- Commissioner Fischer requests copy of verbal statement that Mayor Kebler’s advisory ahead of City Council meetings be read and adopted by HREC.

7. Roundtable Discussion of HREC Commissioners:

- Chair Kitchens:
 - May is APIC Month.
 - June is PRIDE month.
 - June is Juneteenth.
- Commissioner Currie: Youth involvement, COCC, summer symposiums (COCC, Latinx, Afro).

8. Standing Item: HREC City Council Liaison Update: Megan Perkins She/Her, Councilor & Mayor Pro Tem.

Council Liaison’s highlights:

- AAPI Proclamation.
- Citizen’s Assembly.
- Tax Incentive Programs.
- CDBG Funds – Federal Funds AHAC recommendations to City Council on distribution.
- Councilor Perkins is also the staff liaison to AHAC.
- June: Budget Months.
- June 20 Action.

9. Adjourn: With no further HREC business, Equity and Inclusion Director Portela adjourned the April 24, 2024, Human Rights and Equity Commission hybrid meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Larsen, She/Her
Administrative Support Specialist, Accessibility and Equity



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc., please contact Equity and Inclusion Director, Andrés Portela, He/Him/El at equity@bendoregon.gov. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.

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Por favor contacte al Director de Equidad e Inclusión, Andrés Portela aportela@bendoregon.gov o llame al 541-323-8563. Los usuarios de retransmisión marquen el 7-1-1.