



CITY OF BEND

Minutes

Human Rights and Equity Commission

September 25, 2024, from 4:30 to 6:30 PM

City Council Chambers, Bend City Hall
710 NW Wall, Bend, Oregon

Chair Jeff Kitchens called the **Human Rights and Equity Commission (HREC)**, September 25, 2024, hybrid regular meeting in Council Chambers at 4:31 Wednesday. Please watch the **HREC September 25th, hybrid regular meeting, live at 4:30 p.m.**

1. **Roll Call and Welcome:** Commissioners, Staff & Visitors. Chair Kitchens, Staff and Visitors.

Commissioners in Chambers: (6)

- Chair, Jeff Kitchens, He/Him.
- Cameron Fischer, She/Her.
- Eli Loewenstern, He/Him.
- Jackie Currie, She/They.
- Linda Hiemer, She/Her.
- Scott Jones, He/Him.

Commissioners through Zoom: (3)

- Agatha Ventura, She/Her/Hers.
- Jasmine Wilder, She/Her.
- Nessa Covington, She/Her.

Commissioners Absences Excused: (3)

- Vice Chair Carolyn Peacock-Biggs, She/Her.
- Adrienne McDougal, She/Her/Hers.
- Carly Colgan, She/Her.

Commissioners Absent: (1)

- Ruth Vernotico, They/Her/He.

City Staff:

- Andrés Portela, He/Him/El, Equity & Inclusion Director (Chambers).
- Megan Perkins, She/Her, Councilor / Mayor Pro Tem / HREC Council Liaison (Zoom).
- Ian Leitheiser, He/Him, City of Bend Assistant City Attorney (Chambers).
- Cassandra Kehoe, She/Her/Ella, Accessibility & Equity Manager / COBAAC Staff Liaison (Chambers).
- Amy Fraley, She/Her/Hers, Housing Department. (Chambers)
- Lisa Larsen, She/Her, Administrative Support Staff (Chambers).
- Brook Okeefe, Affordable Housing Coordinator (Zoom Attendee)

Public Comment:

- Chuck Hemingway

2. **Land Acknowledgement:** HREC Volunteer. English // Spanish Translation.

City of Bend Land Acknowledgement read in English, by Member Eli Loewenstern

3. HREC Business: Chair Kitchens He/Him.

a. Approval of the August 28, 2024, Draft Minutes.

Motion: Member Ventura motioned to approve the HREC August 28, 2024, Draft Minutes, with no correction. Commissioner Fischer seconded. The motion to approve the August 28, 2024, unanimously passed by all voting members who attended today's meeting, in Chambers (6) and through Zoom (3).

b. Review the September Agenda.

Commissioners reviewed the September agenda with no updates.

4. Standing Item: HREC Council Liaison Update. Megan Perkins She/Her, Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Pro Tem Perkins Highlights:

- Brooks Alley / Promenade Community Space (design a flex space with North Parking Lot) events are held in parking lot and other time used as parking lot. Alleviates stress/strain on other local business
- Growth Plan Communications Strategy
 - How is involve new members into growth plan – citizen's assembly
- Welcoming Week Proclamation
- Locally Purchase Mt. Bachelor
- Proclamation for a week without driving (30% of population does not have access to car – reflect on how we use our cars and have knowledge to go about our day)
- Juniper Ridge purchases – Paulsen Building
- Joint City Council and Deschutes County Commissioners Meeting (unanimous decision)
 - Temporary safe stay in Juniper Ridge
 - Service providers to expand capacity, basic services
 - Coordinated Houseless Response Office
 - Safe Parking Program – 11 new stops (16 now)
 - Cameron Fischer question – who is going to open these up
 - Dean Swift Property (CO Villages)

5. Public Comment:

- Chuck Hemingway (Provided memo on behalf of Home More Network)

6. Old Business:

a. Commission letter to City of Bend Council: Chair Kitchens He/Him.

- **Chair Kitchens Overview**
- **Ian Leitheiser Update to distinction of 24 hours and 72 hours.**
- **Member Currie input – increase to increase accessibility, not decrease.**
 - Would like to see safe parking options, agree, and more about that – bolster alternatives before decreasing
 - Information and data as to why changing – NIMBY or actual safety, why are we shifting, what is the rationale?
- **City Attorney Leitheiser:** Police Department Phone Call.
- Information from City Staff who are in contact with houseless community members
- **HREC Considering:** – standardize the time – no, no, go the other way – welcome to recommend, keep in mind what Council is considering. Standardize everything at 24, not more. Council has given direction – input has the most impact.
- **Member Currie:** – don't think our commission doing what we are supposed to be doing if we say OK. Something is up for change; we are not ok with this change. Change to standardize it, do it the other way.
- **Member Fischer:** Thanks to Agatha and Jeff and Equity support – priority from reframe reducing time, wordsmithing. Increasing safe parking options – lot more to be done and other ways to tap that.
- **Member Loewenstern:** what is the process of removing.
- **Member Hiemer:** Is there an inventory of items removed.
- **Member Covington:** Safe parking and item of 30 days (state law and code and property stored for at least 30 days) can be longer.
- **Member Ventura:** enforcement (I don't think the enforcement changes at all – vigilance – 2 people applying our camping code) I don't think there is more enforcement – this is not going to change – straight to enforcement – won't change – some of the rules will change. ***Philosophy will not change – camping code, philosophy, none of that is changing.***
 - Police or transportation – right of way, non-criminal issue, police are not involved – police are not enforcing the camping code.

Chair Kitchens suggested amendments:

- Recommendation 2 – acknowledge 72 hours' notice, we suggest not suggesting it to 24 hours.
- Recommendation 2 – recommend and encourage city council to ensure consistency, to review camping code, increase to 72 hours to be consistent with parking camping. Notice time,

- Prior to considering decreasing time able to camp in car or tent, would be to balance it with increasing options for safe parking or whatever else would be helpful – more shelters etc. safe parking options

- Considering the equity and dignity of all when making the changes – not just how we implement, we consider all

Member Ventura and Chair Kitchens to make edits. Thoughts or comments:

Member Fischer: potentially – ADA considerations with ability to remove when needed

- Exceptional Emergency situations – immediate removal – ex: in a driveway, safety issues for multiple people – inherently unsafe, immediate removal, may use public ROW, places that you cannot do this. Describe as inherently dangerous. Immediate removal.

Member Currie: – sounds good,

Chair Kitchens Motioned to amend memo to clarify that we are requesting that the current allowance in camping (reciting entirety of what was just recited). Member Currie second of motion. The motion unanimously passes by all voting members who attended today’s meeting, in Chambers (6) and via Zoom (3).

b. Homelessness Solutions Update: Amy Fraley, She/Her/Hers, Housing Department.

PowerPoint Presentation:

- Up to date 2024 Point-in-Time Count
- Increase of 10% in Central Oregon
- In Bend – Decrease since January 2023 (also includes Juniper Ridge and China Hat)
- Fischer – 523, open – not warming shelter beds, open tonight
- School district – youth experiencing houselessness (access)
- City-led and Regional Solutions (medically fragile and more kids living there than ever before – warm and welcoming)
- Navigation Center – rarely will turn people away – operated by Shephard House
- Central Oregon Villages
- City owns all of the buildings, and safe parking through the churches,
- Temporary Safe Stay Area
- Funding structure and metrics

Chair Kitchens held the Q & A – to email Amy in the future.

7. New Business:

a. Workplan – Andrés Portela, He/Him/El, Equity and Inclusion Director.

Overview:

- Individual & Share Purpose.
- Introduce our focus areas
- Brainstorming: Community Engagement, Education & Awareness, Policy Advocacy.

- Group Prioritization: Community Engagement, Education & Awareness, Policy Advocacy.

Next Meeting:

- Creating Consistency around the advisory role using the Equity Department framework.

Equity & Inclusion Director Portela: Commissioners entered answers to questions via Ment.com and Post Post-its notes added to posterboards in chambers throughout this presentation.

Why did you Join HREC (One Word)?

Community Engagement Ideas?

Education and Awareness Ideas?

Focus Areas:

- **Advisory Role:** HREC’s primary goal is to advise the City Council on policies and practices that impact equity, human rights, and inclusion within the community. The Commission works to identify barriers to equity and to recommend strategies for dismantling those barriers. HREC strives to create systemic change that benefits the entire community by centering the voices of those most impacted by inequity.
- **Community Engagement:** HREC’s primary goal is to advise the City Council on policies and practices that impact equity, human rights, and inclusion within the community. The Commission works to identify barriers to equity and to recommend strategies for dismantling those barriers. HREC strives to create systemic change that benefits the entire community by centering the voices of those most impacted by inequity.

8. Roundtable Discussion of HREC Commissioners: Chair Kitchens, He/Him.

a. Bin Items/Tasks/Follow-ups: This item was tabled until the next HREC meeting due to time constraints.

b. Equity Department Updates: Andrés Portela, He/Him/El, Equity and Inclusion Director.

- October Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- City Council.
- Hispanic/ Latine,o,a,x Heritage Month.
- Municipal Equality Index (MEI) Update: The MEI examines how inclusive municipal laws, policies, and services are of LGBTQ+ people who live and work there. Cities are rated based on non-discrimination laws, the municipality as an employer, municipal services, law enforcement and leadership on LGBTQ+ equality.

It was precedent for the work HREC started. Last year we started at a 61, as a city. We are now at an 83, with a goal of 92, in 2025.

- Next meeting:
 - Workplan.
 - City of Bend Presentation.
 - Stipend Program Update.

9. Adjourn:

With no further Business, Chair Kitchens adjourned the September 25, 2024, Human Rights and Equity hybrid regular meeting at 6:37 p.m. Which unanimously passed by all voting members who attended today's meeting, in Chambers (6) and through Zoom (3).

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Larsen, Administrative Support Specialist, Accessibility and Equity



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

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Para solicitar copias en español de los documentos en esta página web o en un formato alternativo como Braille, letra grande, formatos electrónicos, etc.:

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.