



CITY OF BEND

Minutes

Human Rights and Equity Commission

November 13, 2024, from 4:30 to 6:30 PM – Alternate Meeting Date and Venue Change.

Board Room, Bend City Hall
710 NW Wall, Bend, Oregon

Chair Jeff Kitchens called the **Human Rights and Equity Commission** (HREC) to order a hybrid regular meeting in Council Chambers at 4:31 p.m. on November 13, 2024.

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

- (1) Chair, Jeff Kitchens, He/Him. (Zoom)
- (2) Council Connector, Jasmine Wilder, She/Her. (Absence Excused)
- (3) Adrienne McDougal, She/Her/Hers. (Zoom)
- (4) Agatha Ventura, She/Her/Hers. (Zoom)
- (5) Cameron Fischer, She/Her. (Zoom)
- (6) Carly Colgan, She/Her. (Zoom)
- (7) Eli Loewenstern, He/Him. (Zoom)
- (8) Jackie Currie, She/They. (Board Room)
- (9) Linda Hiemer, She/Her. (Board Room)
- (10) Ruth Vernotico, They/Her/He. (Board Room)
- (11) Scott Jones, He/Him. (Board Room)
- (12) Nessa Covington, She/Her. (Absence Excused)

City Staff:

- Andrés Portela, He/Him/El, Equity & Inclusion Director (Board Room).
- Cassandra Kehoe, She/Her/Ella, Accessibility & Equity Manager / COBAAC Staff Liaison (BR).
- Megan Perkins, She/Her, Councilor / Mayor Pro Tem / HREC Council Liaison (Board Room).
- Ian Leitheiser, He/Him, City of Bend Assistant City Attorney (Board Room).
- Lisa Larsen, She/Her, Administrative Support Staff (Board Room).

Public Visitor:

- Lois Capozzi left no comment.

2. Land Acknowledgement: HREC Volunteer. English or Spanish Translation.

- a. City of Bend Land Acknowledgement read by Commissioner Vernotico in English

3. HREC Business: Chair Kitchens He/Him.

a. Approval of the October 30, 2024, Draft Minutes (Alt. Mtg Length).

Motion: Commissioner Vernotico motioned to approve the HREC October 30, 2024, Draft Minutes, with no correction. Commissioner Ventura seconded. The motion to approve the October 30, 2024, draft minutes was unanimously passed by all voting members who attended today's meeting in Chambers (4) and through Zoom (6).

b. Review the HREC November 13, 2024, Agenda.

Reviewed by all Commissioners that attended today's meeting.

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

- Housing Team and Presentation: Regarding what the department does, we're going with middle housing, code changes, unlocking infill, and funding strategy.
- The state is giving Oregon Housing Needs Analysis (the number of housing required over the next 20 years).
 - The preliminary number is very high, and most of the houses are in the affordable range, but we will need to figure out how to subsidize and where the money will come from.
 - **Bend Housing Data Hub**
- Homelessness Grant Program
- \$3 Million (\$800K to Juniper, \$750 to general shelter operations. – and 1.5 Million to housing focus case management, service providers, need to be met for funding, etc.
- Phase II of Transportation Utility Fee (Utility Bills in July – the number will double in phase II next July) to ensure it is a practical use and that businesses are being charged effectively for the use they have and the use that they
- Stewardship meeting subcommittee this coming Friday – Council Subcommittees – delve into issues and full council, update on temp safe stay area in Juniper Ridge, central Oregon civil access project, civil assembly on youth homelessness (8:30-10 am on Friday and will be recorded and available afterward)
- Upcoming CC Meeting, November 20, 2024, will be holding the Native American Proclamation for the community.
 - Ruth is asking who will be accepting.
 - Kathi update: The meeting will be a review of the MOU, community art projects – update on existing updates, planning for 2025 November to be working in the next year – given capacity.

5. Public Visitor:

- Lois Capozzi left no comment

6. Old Business:

a. **Continued Workplan Discussion:** Andrés Portela, He/Him/El, Equity & Inclusion Director.

The focus areas from the October meeting were **Education and Awareness, Community Engagement, Policy Advocacy, and Advisory Roles.**

2025-2026 Workplan Creation Timeline:

- August: Focused area introduction.
- September: Brainstorming.
- October: First review of goals.
- November: Adoption and Logistics.
- December: Let's look at the goal when in motion.

The commissioners discussed the focus areas mentioned in the October meeting.

The group asked for clarification on the Policy Advocacy Goal and asked if the two things in the goal should be split into two: one to develop and implement the lens and the other to review and provide feedback and advice on the policy.

Holding meetings through a subcommittee model or a general body meeting was discussed.

7. No New Business:

a. **Commissioner Elected Position/ Vacancies.**

At the next meeting, HREC will accept nominations for the Chair and vice chair positions to resume a regular schedule from January to January. They will also accept nominations for the Council Connector and Commissioner Connector positions.

8. Roundtable Discussion of HREC Commissioners: Chair Kitchens, He/Him. (5 minutes)

- Commissioner Currie shared it is American Heritage Month, specifically the Rock Your Mocs Event.
- Commissioner Vernotico: This week is Transgender Awareness Week.

a. **Equity Department Updates.** Andrés Portela, He/Him/El, Equity and Inclusion Director.

Youth Advisory Council (YAC) Invitation a City Council Subcommittee (Non-voting):

What: Stewardship Committee

November 15, 2024, from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.

Shared future agenda plans for December, January, and February.

9. **Reminder:** Because of the December holiday, our next Human Rights & Equity Commission meeting will be held on the second Wednesday of the month, **December 11, 2024, in the Boardroom, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

10. Adjourn: 6:30 p.m.

With no further Business, Chair Kitchens adjourned the November 13, 2024, Human Rights and Equity hybrid regular meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Larsen, Administrative Support Specialist, Accessibility and Equity



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