



Minutes

Human Rights and Equity Commission

CITY OF BEND

December 11, 2024, from 4:30 to 5:45 PM – Alternate Meeting Date, Length, and Venue Change.

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

Chair Jeff Kitchens called the **Human Rights and Equity Commission** (HREC) on December 11, 2024, a hybrid regular meeting in Council Chambers at 4:35 on Wednesday. Please watch the **HREC December 11, 2024, hybrid meeting recording**.

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

- 1.1 Chair, Jeff Kitchens, He/Him. (Board Room)
- 1.2 Council Connector, Jasmine Wilder, She/Her. (Board Room)
- 1.3 Adrienne McDougal, She/Her/Hers. (Board Room)
- 1.4 Agatha Ventura, She/Her/Hers. (Board Room)
- 1.5 Cameron Fischer, She/Her. (Board Room)
- 1.6 Carly Colgan, She/Her. (Board Room)
- 1.7 Eli Loewenstern, He/Him. (Board Room)
- 1.8 Jackie Currie, She/They. (Board Room)
- 1.9 Linda Hiemer, She/Her. (Zoom)
- 1.10 Ruth Vernotico, They/Her/He. (Board Room)
- 1.11 Scott Jones, He/Him. (Board Room)
- 1.12 Nessa (Vanessa) Covington, She/Her. (Zoom)

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).
- Brian Rankin, He, Him, Long Range Planning Manager, Growth Management, (Board Room)
- Elyse Vukelich, She, Her City of Bend Associate Planner, Growth Management Division.
- Ian Leitheiser, He/Him, City of Bend Assistant City Attorney (Board Room).
- Katherina Barguil, She, They|Ella, Community Relations Manager, (Board Room)
- Lisa Larsen, She/Her, Administrative Support Staff (Board Room).

2. City of Bend Land Acknowledgement: HREC Volunteer, in English.

Council Connector Wilder read the Cit of Bend Land Acknowledgement.

3. Elections: Andres Portela (He, Him) Equity and Inclusion Director.

Chair Kitchens nominated Commissioner Agatha Ventura for chair, and she accepted.

Motion 1 (Chair): Commissioner Vernotico Carolyn motioned to approve Commissioner Ventura for the HREC Chair position. Chair Kitchens seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by all voting members who attended today's meeting in the Board Room (10) and through Zoom (2).

Commissioner Vernotico nominated Chair Kitchens for Vice Chair, and he accepted.

Motion 2 (Vice Chair): Commissioner Vernotico motioned to approve Commissioner Chair Kitchens for the HREC Vice Chair position. Commissioner Wilder seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by all voting members who attended today's meeting in the Board Room (10) and through Zoom (2).

Motion 3 Council Connector withdrawal: Commissioner Vernotico motioned to approve Commissioner Hiemer's withdrawal as Council Connector. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Motion 4 (Council Connector): Commissioner Ventura motioned to approve Commissioner Currie as Council Connector Role. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by all voting members who attended today's meeting in the Board Room (10) and through Zoom (2).

Motion 5 Commissioner Connector withdrawal: Commissioner Wilder motioned to approve Commissioner Vernotico's withdrawal as Council Connector. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Motion 6 (Commissioner Connector): Commissioner Vernotico motioned to approve Commissioner Jones as Council Connector Role. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by all voting members who attended today's meeting in the Board Room (10) and through Zoom (2).

4. Old Business:

- Workplan Adoption, Andres Portela (He, Him) Equity and Inclusion Director.

They discussed commissioners' capacity to meet and move policy/advocacy between meetings.

The commissioner reviewed and read the future goals for the HREC Workplan from their October meeting: ***policy advocacy, community engagement, and education and awareness.***

Motion 7 Adopt the Workplan: Commissioner Chair Kitchens motions to adopt the three goals listed: Policy Advocacy, Community Engagement, and Education and Awareness. The motion was approved unanimously by all voting members who attended today's meeting in the Board Room (10) and through Zoom (2).

5. New Business:

- **Growth Plan**, Elyse Vukelich (She, Her) City of Bend Associate Planner, Growth Management Division. Brian Rankin, He, Him, Long Range Planning Manager, Growth Management.

This is the first visit from the Growth Management Division regarding Growth Plan Engagement. Since this is just the beginning, they would like to continue presenting the Growth Plan to HREC.

There were four objectives brought to the Human Rights and Equity Commission:

- I. Fill you in on the growth plan.
- II. Share our plans for community engagement for the Growth Plan.
- III. Get your feedback on how to conduct better equitable engagement.
- IV. Hear your thoughts on how to keep you involved and informed.

Commissioners shared their input and invited Growth Management back to continue their conversation.

6. Roundtable:

a. Commissioners Shared Information:

- **Commissioner Jones: Season for Nonviolence through COCC on January 27th, at Tower Theater.**
- **Commissioner Colgan: Individual Development Accounts**
- **Commissioner Currie: Warm Springs Christmas Bazaar Fundraiser**

b. Equity Department Update.

- Commissioner Wilder has served as chair and been a foundational leader in our City's equity journey through her dedication to HREC. Jasmine's care for her community is unparalleled. And we will miss her greatly.

7. Adjourn:

With no further Business, Chair Kitchens adjourned the December 11, 2024, Human Rights and Equity hybrid regular meeting at 5:54 p.m., which was unanimously passed by all voting members who attended today's meeting in the Board Room (10) and through Zoom (2).

Submitted respectfully,

Lisa Larsen, Administrative Support Specialist, Accessibility and Equity



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Puede obtener esta información en formatos alternativos como Braille, formato electrónico, etc. También disponemos de servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Póngase en contacto con Gestor del proyecto o creador del documento Equity and Inclusion Director // HREC Staff Liaison, Andrés Portela, He/Him/El equity@bendoregon.gov en correo electrónico/em o número de teléfono 541-323-8563. Los usuarios del servicio de retransmisión deben marcar el 7-1-1.