



CITY OF BEND

Minutes

Human Rights and Equity Commission

March 26, 2025, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

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

Chair Ventura called to order the Human Rights and Equity Commission's (HREC) March 26, 2025, hybrid regular meeting at 4:31 p.m. This meeting was held virtually through Zoom and in person in Council Chambers at City Hall, 710 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon, from 4:30 to 6:30. Please [watch this HREC meeting live at 4:30 p.m.](#)

1. Roll Call and Welcome: Commissioners.

Chamber (6):

- Agatha Ventura She/Her/Hers, Chair
- Scott Jones, He/Him, Commissioner Connector
- Carly Colgan, She/Her/Hers
- Cristina Morales Moyano, She/Her
- Jenn (Jennifer) Kovitz, She/ Her
- Linda Hiemer, She/Her

Zoom (5):

- Mario Anguiano, He/Him
- Eli Loewenstern, He/Him
- Ruth Vernotico, They/She/He
- Nessa (Vanessa) Covington, She/Her
- Kinsey Martin (ex-officio)

Commissioners Absent (3)

- Adrienne McDougal, SheHer/Hers
- Cameron Fischer, She/Her
- Jackie Currie, She/They, Council Connector

City Staff:

- Andrés Portela, He/Him/El, Equity & Inclusion Director (C)
- Cassandra Kehoe, She/Her/Ella, Accessibility & Equity Manager / COBAAC Staff Liaison (Z)
- Megan Perkins, She/Her, Councilor / Mayor Pro Tem / HREC Council Liaison (C)
- Ian Leitheiser, He/Him, City of Bend Assistant City Attorney (C)
- Damien Syrnyk, Growth Management Division (C)
- Carrie Karl (She/Her), Director of Risk & Emergency Management (C)
- Rebecca Roseberry (She/Her/Hers), Intern for Emergency Management (C)
- Lisa Larsen, She/Her, Administrative Support Specialist (C)

2. City of Bend Land Acknowledgement:

Commissioner Vernotico read the City of Bend Land Acknowledgment in English.

3. HREC Business: Chair, Agatha Ventura.

a. Minutes: Approval of January 29, 2025, Draft Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Chair Ventura motioned to approve the HREC January 29, 2025, Draft Minutes, with no corrections. Commissioner Vernotico seconded. The motion to approve the HREC January 29, 2025, draft minutes was unanimously passed by all voting members who attended today's meeting in Chambers (6) and through Zoom (4)

b. Review the HREC March 26, 2025, Agenda.

Reviewed by all Commissioners who attended today's meeting.

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

- Councilor Perkins will provide an overview of the Council Goal Framework.
- The work session: Council talked about traffic and Greenwood, how to calm city traffic, and pedestrian safety.
- The Women's History Month proclamation was read in Spanish and English. There were representatives from LCA. Saving Grace and Planned Parenthood accepted the Proclamation.
- The Council filled the Human Rights and Equity Commission appointments and approved.
- City Council approved the City Goal framework. Staff will work to fill in the specific strategies within that framework.
- Council will look at Target Sector Analysis visioning for the future.
- Council will also look at the residential and non-residential components of the Transportation Utility Fee on our utility bills. This fee will be used for the Street Maintenance budget and some of the projects we want in our Transportation Plan.
- Local Tourism and House Bill 3556, and what can we use this money: Anyone staying in a Bend Hotel/Airbnb/short-term lodging pays a 10.4% tax to the City of Bend. Seventy percent of this tax is allocated to the City and Deschutes County, and thirty percent is allocated to Visit Bend. If the bill passes, it will allow local governments more control over how and where tourism-generated revenue is allocated.

Councilor Perkins answered questions from the Commissioners.

5. Roundtable of Commissioners:

Director Portela talked about attending the Habitat for Humanity Design Open House. They unveiled a universally designed home that showed about 150 ways they incorporated it into their work.

There was discussion about what upcoming community events and subcommittee meetings the commissioners are interested in attending.

6. Public Comment: No public in attendance.

7. Old Business:

a. Subcommittee Reports.

- Education and Awareness Subcommittee:

This group will meet on the third Monday of the month. They will move forward with the goals they have set.

- Community Engagement Subcommittee:

This group discussed the work plan and worked on finalizing their meeting schedule.

- Policy Advocacy:

This group's follow-up meeting is on Monday, April 21, 2025, and is committed to meeting consistently and reporting to HREC.

b. Target Sector Analysis, Damien Syrnyk, Senior Planner, Growth Management Division.

At last month's HREC meeting, the Senior Planner, Syrnyk of Growth Management, gave an overview of the economic trends.

The Growth Management team will meet with the City Council and present the different sectors for their review. City staff will prepare proposal requests for a consultant to help update the Growth Plan.

Senior Planner, Syrnyk answered questions from the commissioners.

8. New Business:

a. Bend Emergency Management Overview: Emergency Management Team:

- Carrie Karl, She/Her, Director of Risk & Emergency Management
- Rebecca Roseberry She/Her/Hers, Intern

Director Karl gave an overview of what the Emergency Management job entails, since it is not always clear.

Risk and Emergency Management is the department. We work on occupational health, the safety of the employees and workers' compensation, the general risk posture of the City they serve, and Emergency Management. Director Karl is the designated Emergency Manager and supports the City Manager in a disaster.

The Emergency Management Department is asking for help with planning input on barriers with response, recovery, mitigation, and local resources to make connections with communities.

There was a discussion session between the Risk and Emergency Management team and HREC Commissioners.

b. **City Resolution Discussion:** Andres Portela, He/Him/Equity Department.

Equity and Inclusion Director, Portela, read the **Resolution: Affirming Our Commitment to Dignity, and Respect for Our Transgender & Nonbinary Community Members** document.

There was discussion about the language, intent, and the impact they want to make regarding this document.

People involved with the creation of this document were Mayor Kebler, Mayor Pro Tem Perkins, the Equity team, and the City of Bend internal Employee Resource Group.

Within the next week, there will be meetings with two LGBTQIA+ communities and an invitation to be part of the discussion.

9. **Adjourn:** With no further Business, Chair Ventura adjourned the March 26, 2025, Human Rights and Equity hybrid regular meeting at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Larsen, She/Her, Administrative Support Specialist

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Servicios de asistencia lingüística e información sobre alojamiento para personas con discapacidad

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 en equity@bendoregon.gov o número de teléfono 541-323-8563. Los usuarios del servicio de retransmisión deben marcar el 7-1-1.