



CITY OF BEND

Minutes

Human Rights and Equity Commission

April 30, 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) April 30, 2025, hybrid regular meeting at 4:30 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 the April 30, 2025, livestream recording**.

1. Roll Call and where the Commissioners attended the meeting: (Chambers 9; 6 voters) (Zoom 5; 3 voters) (Absent 2).

- 1.1. Agatha Ventura, Chair - Chambers
- 1.2. Jackie Currie, Council Connector - Zoom
- 1.3. Scott Jones, Commissioner-Connector - Chambers
- 1.4. Adrienne McDougal - Absent
- 1.5. Cameron Fischer - Zoom
- 1.6. Carly Colgan - Zoom
- 1.7. Eli Loewenstern - Chambers
- 1.8. Linda Hiemer - Chambers
- 1.9. Ruth Vernotico - Chambers
- 1.10. Vanessa (Nessa) Covington - Absent and Resigned 4/30/2025.
- 1.11. Mario Anguiano - Chambers
- 1.12. Cristina Morales Moyano - Chambers
- 1.13. Jennifer (Jenn) Kovitz - Zoom
- 1.14. Bet Hannon, Alternate - Zoom
- 1.15. Fenix Van Tassel, Alternate - Chambers
- 1.16. Kinsey Martin (ex-officio) - Chambers

Public: No Public in attendance.

City Staff:

- Andrés Portela, He/Him/El, Equity & Inclusion Director (C)
- Cassandra Kehoe, She/Her/Ella, Accessibility & Equity Manager / COBAAC Staff Liaison (Z)
- Liz Woodfin, She/Her, COBAAC Chair, Presenter, (C)
- Megan Perkins, She/Her, Councilor / Mayor Pro Tem / HREC Council Liaison (C)
- Ian Leitheiser, He/Him, City of Bend Assistant City Attorney (C)
- Lisa Larsen, She/Her, Administrative Support Specialist (C)

2. City of Bend Land Acknowledgement:

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

3. HREC Business: Chair, Agatha Ventura.

a. Minutes: Approval of March 30, 2025, Draft Meeting Minutes.

Motion 1: Commissioner Vernotico motioned to approve the March 30, 2025, Draft Minutes, with no corrections. Commissioner Jones seconded. The motion was unanimously passed by all voting members who attended today's meeting in Chambers (6) and through Zoom (3).

b. Review the HREC April 30, 2025, Agenda.

The April 30, 2025, agenda was reviewed by all present at the beginning of the meeting.

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

Updated the Commissioners:

- There was a meeting with the county about Juniper Ridge, related to addressing wildfires.
 - **Sign Up For Deschutes Alerts | Deschutes County, Oregon.**
 - **Community Programs | City of Bend** | They can perform an in-home assessment for more fire readiness.
- Temporary stay at Juniper Ridge. Impress with what is being done, services needed being met, and the services that are being worked on; concerns being open fires and leashed pets. With a few remaining camps and outside temporary safe areas officially closes May 31.
- Met with Warm Springs and talked about their areas of common interest and intergovernmental agreements.
- China Hat will officially close on Thursday morning. Of the two hundred people, service providers mentioned, one hundred were said to have a plan for somewhere to go, and providers are working hard to find somewhere safe for the other hundred.
- Mayor Pro Tem shared the Guiding Principles that the City Council approved.

Purpose:

- The Guiding Principles serve as a foundational lens for our city staff, helping translate our community's values into an actionable framework that guides decision-making and policy development. They articulate the Bend City Council's core values, ensuring transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in our governance.
 - Safety and belonging.
 - Inclusive. Governance.
 - Environment and climate.
 - Fiscal stewardship.
 - Partnership.

Mayor Pro Tem Perkins answered questions from the commissioners.

5. Roundtable of HREC Commissioners:

Information shared:

HREC feels they should make a statement. In solidarity. With the residents of China Hat. | The cancellation of many other community events and meetings. | People wearing denim to recognize sexual assault awareness month. | Annual POW WOW at Warm Springs High School. | Red Dress Day/MMIR Awareness (Missing & Murdered Indigenous Relatives). | Reach out to Bend Pride or SUS to volunteer.

6. Public Comment: No public members in attendance.

7. Elections:

a. Vice Chair Election

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Hiemer was voted HREC Vice Chair and expires January 2026.
Votes: Chambers (06) and through Zoom (3).

8. New Business:

a. COBAAC Workplan Update and Connection: Cassandra Kehoe, She/Her/Ella, Accessibility & Equity Manager. Liz Woodfin, She/Her, City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee.

COBAAC Chair Woodfin shared the City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee's work plan.

Workplan Timeline of Community Participation and Engagement:

- Sprout Film Festival 4/8/2025.
- Breaking Barriers 4/22/2025
- COBAAC Walk & Roll 5/20/2025.
- CityFest Summer of 2025
- Accessibility Lunch + Learn Fall 2025
- Welcoming Week 9/12 to 9/21/2025

9. Old Business:

a. Subcommittee Updates: Adopt the work plan(s).

- **Policy Advocacy April 2025 to December 2026, Purpose:** Develop, evaluate, and recommend equity-focused policies that support systematic change in Bend.
 - **Goal 1:** Develop and institutionalize an equity lens for decision making.
 - **Goal 2:** Identify and recommend equity-aligned policies.
 - **Goal 3:** Build internal policy literacy and equity analysis capacity.

Motion 2: Commissioner Vernotico motioned to approve the Policy Advocacy part of the work plan. Commissioner Jones seconded. The motion was unanimously passed by all voting members who attended today's meeting in Chambers (6) and Zoom (3).

- **Community Engagement April 2025 to December 2026 Purpose:** Develop and implement strategies for inclusive, sustained, and trust-based engagement with the community.
 - **Goal 1:** Build trusting relationships with marginalized communities.
 - **Goal 2:** Create inclusive communication channels.
 - **Goal 3:** Influence city policy through community input.

Motion 3: Commissioner Vernotico motioned to approve the Community Engagement part of the work plan. Commissioner Loewenstern seconded. The motion was unanimously passed by all voting members who attended today's meeting in Chambers (6) and Zoom (3).

- **Education and Awareness Purpose April 2025 to December 2026 Purpose:** Foster public and institutional learning through culturally relevant education that centers on the lived experiences of Bend community members.
 - **Goal 1:** Develop and deliver equity-centered educational programming.
 - **Goal 2:** Collaborate with internal Equity Partners.
 - **Goal 3:** Advance organizational learning on equity and human rights.

Motion 4: Commissioner Hiemer motioned to approve the Educational and Awareness part of the work plan. Commissioner Vernotico seconded. The motion was unanimously passed by all voting members who attended today's meeting in Chambers (6) and Zoom (3).

The April 2025 to 2026 work plan will be shared and approved by the City Council. Additionally, the Equity Director, Portela, and the City Attorney's office need to adjust the code.

10. Adjourn: With no further Business, Chair Ventura adjourned the April 30, 2025, Human Rights and Equity hybrid regular meeting at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Larsen, Administrative Support Specialist



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