



# Minutes

## Human Rights and Equity Commission

May 28, 2025, from 4:30 to 6:30 PM

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

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Chair Ventura called to order the Human Rights and Equity Commission's (HREC) April 30, 2025, hybrid regular meeting at 4:30 PM. Please [watch the HREC May 28, 2025, meeting livestream recording](#).

**1. Roll Call and Welcome:** Commissioners.

- 1.1. Agatha Ventura, Chair (Chambers)
- 1.2. Jackie Currie, Council Connector (Chambers)
- 1.3. Scott Jones, Commissioner-Connector (Chambers)
- 1.4. Adrienne McDougal (Absent)
- 1.5. Cameron Fischer (Zoom)
- 1.6. Carly Colgan (Chambers)
- 1.7. Cristina Morales Moyano (Chambers)
- 1.8. Eli Loewenstein (Zoom)
- 1.9. Jennifer (Jenn) Kovitz (Chambers)
- 1.10. Linda Hiemer (Chambers)
- 1.11. Mario Anguiano (Zoom)
- 1.12. Mary (Bet) Hannon (Absent)
- 1.13. Ruth Vernoitico (Chambers)
- 1.14. Kinsey Martin (ex-officio) (Absent)

**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)
- 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: HREC Volunteer.**

- a. Commissioner Kovitz read the City of Bend Land Acknowledgement in English.

**3. Standing Item: HREC Council Liaison Perkins, She/Her, Update:**

Council Updates:

- Budget deliberations. Unanimous decision to move it forward to the Council's second meeting in June.
- Looking into more housing financing and what that looks like to build 30K houses over the next 30 years.
- Discussed trying to incentivize housing below 90%.
- At the next Council meeting, Visit Bend will share its business plan and summer advertising. Thirty percent of tourism money goes into our general fund, which helps pay for public safety.
- Creating a gun violence proclamation for Pride month.
- Future Public hearing on developing code amendments related to ADUs and row houses.
- Continued talks about City fleet electrification. The resolution mentions weight limits and opportunities for exceptions/ exceptions.
- A 2025 community analysis measuring three counties in Warm Springs increased by 17%. The City of Bend included China Hat and Juniper Ridge, so that looks different.

Council Liaison Perkins answered questions for commissioners.

**4. Roundtable of HREC Commissioners:**

**Commissioners shared Events:** Participation in the higher education coordination commission's work group to help study the workforce challenges in residential construction and concerns with community engagement. | HREC's representation within the community; professionally, personally, and voluntarily becoming a part of our story. Be clear when representing outside of HREC about the capacity you are presenting there. | Oregon Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Domestic Violence, June 5<sup>th</sup>, National Day of Action, many will meet in Salem. | June 7, 2025, Pride at Drake Park. | Reaffirming a proclamation supporting the 2SLGBTQI community, public safety engagement for events like Pride. | The City of Bend held an emergency meeting about joining in litigation to protect federal grants and has joined another.

**5. Discussion on the Structure of HREC Meetings:** What is working and what is not working.

- Robert's Rules of Order.
- Public Meeting Rules.
- Subcommittee Rules.

Less emails, more commission involvement in meeting structure, commissioners in more control of holding non-public subcommittee meetings, and gathering information as a group informally and not staff driven.

## **6. Public Comment:**

No public attendance in the Chamber gallery or online.

## **7. Vote 2025 by Show of Hands: Summer Break, and November & December Meeting Date(s).**

### **a. Summer Break:** June, July, or August:

Summer Break will take place in August and was unanimously passed by all voting members who attended today's meeting.

### **b. November Meeting:**

The HREC November meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, and was unanimously passed by all voting members who attended in Chambers and Virtually, at today's meeting.

### **c. December Meeting:**

The HREC December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 18, 2025, and was unanimously passed by all voting members who attended in Chambers and Virtually, at today's meeting.

## **8. Old Business:**

Possible Future Meeting Presentations:

- Housing
  - Point in Time Count
- Economic Development
  - Invest Bend
- Environment and Climate
  - Climate Action Plan and Grant
- Oregon Advocacy Commission's Office
  - Black Affairs
  - API Affairs
  - Hispanic Affairs
  - Women's Affairs
  - US Civil Rights Committee Member Mickie Derting

### **a. Standing Item:** Workplan Subcommittee Reports.

- Adoption of Housing Support Letter (HB3644)

The commissions discussed, reviewed this letter, and motioned.

**Motion:** Commissioner Kovitz motioned to amend and add pick count details and the last sentence to reframe it from a rhetorical and to a declaration in the Housing Support Letter (HB3644) in an updated draft and send the updated letter to the commissioner's approval before the letter is sent to the City Council. Commissioner Colgan approved the motion. Commissioner Hiemer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed by all voting members who attended today's meeting in Chambers and through Zoom.

Sending a letter to the state legislature is not within the authority of any of our city advisory bodies under the code.

i. Policy Advocacy:

**Mentioned out of Sequence:** Director Portella will email a letter of support to express solidarity with the houseless community for approval.

No Capacity to hold this meeting.

ii. Education and Outreach

Tabled until the June meeting, due to time constraints.

iii. Community Engagement

Tabled until the June meeting, due to time constraints.

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

- The COBAAC Walk + Roll event was successful.
- Thank you for the Resolution Of The Bend City Council Reaffirming The City's Support For Bend's 2SLGBTQIA+ community members. Council approved on May 21, 2025.

**Upcoming Dates:**

- NASU POWWOW
- Community Events:
  - **LCA 25th Year Celebration** | May 30th 3-6 PM| LCA Bend office.
  - **ECOCHELLA: Community Justice Event** | May 30th 3:30- 7PM | Drake Park
  - **APIC Activity Night** | June 1st 5:30 – 7:30 PM | East Bend Library
  - **Juneteenth Celebration**
  - **PRIDE** | June 7th | Drake Park
  - **Treaty Days Pow Wow & Parade**| June 28-29th | Pi-Ume-Sha Grounds

**9. Adjourn:** 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Larsen, Administrative Support Specialist

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### **Language Assistance Services & Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities**

You can obtain this information in alternate formats such as Braille, electronic format, etc. Free language assistance services are also available. Please contact the Equity and Inclusion Department at [equity@bendoregon.gov](mailto:equity@bendoregon.gov) or 541-323-8563. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.



### **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 Equity and Inclusion Director, Andrés Portela en [equity@bendoregon.gov](mailto:equity@bendoregon.gov) o número de teléfono 541-323-8563. Los usuarios del servicio de retransmisión deben marcar el 7-1-1.