



Meeting Minutes

Human Rights and Equity Commission

July 30, 2025, from 4:30 to 7:00 PM

Location: Council Chambers, Bend, 710 NW Wall Street, and online

HREC Chair Ventura called the **Human Rights and Equity Commission's** (HREC) July 30, 2025, hybrid regular meeting to order at 4:43 PM, we incurred technical difficulties. Please [watch the HREC July 30, 2025, livestream recording](#).

1. Roll Call:

Chambers - 7 (6 Voting)

- Agatha Ventura, Chair
- Scott Jones, Commissioner Connector
- Cameron Fischer
- Mario Anguiano
- Mary (Bet) Hannon
- Ruth Vernotico
- Kinsey Martin (ex officio)

Zoom - 6

- Jackie Currie, Council Connector
- Carly Colgan
- Cristina Morales Moyano
- Eli Loewenstern
- Fenix Van Tassel
- Jennifer (Jenn) Kovitz

Absent - 1

- Linda Hiemer, Vice Chair

City Staff:

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

Public Comment:

- Due to time constraints of this meeting time, the public comment section was skipped for this meeting.

2. City of Bend Land Acknowledgement:

- Commissioner Fischer read the City of Bend Land Acknowledgement in English
- Commissioner Chair Ventura read the City of Bend Land Acknowledgement in Spanish.

3. HREC Business:

a. Minutes: Approval of June 25, 2025, Draft Minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Vernotico motioned to approve June 25, 2025, draft minutes, with no corrections. Commissioner Fischer seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by all voting members who attended today's meeting in Chambers (6), and Zoom (6)

b. Reviewed the HREC July 30, 2025, Agenda.

July 30, 2025, agenda was reviewed by all present at the beginning of this meeting.

c. Re-Vote by The Show of Hands: For the September 2025 Meeting Date.

Motion: September 30, 2025, meeting was chosen by the commissioner's show of hands at today's meeting, in Chambers 5 and Zoom 3, with a total of 8. (September 23, 2025, vote was Zoom 1 and Chambers 4, with a total of 5.)

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

Council Update:

- Change for meeting structure for Council meetings held on Wednesday's. Council will meet four Wednesday's a month, two work sessions from 4 to 6 pm and two Council meetings from 6 to 9. This is due to the previous meeting structure causing meetings to be t seven hours
- **Council Goal Quarterly Update pdf** slide desk for our work for the last two years and future issues in the next 6 months in our work sessions.
- The Bend Police Department does not participate in immigration investigation and enforcement activities. The Bend Police Department is bound by Oregon sanctuary law and officers and staff do not, and have no intention to, collaborate with ICE. This is a BEND PD policy. Any information to the contrary should be reported to the Oregon Sanctuary Promise line at 1-844-924-STAY (7829) and forwarded to the City Manager to take appropriate investigation and action if needed.
- Liaison Perkins shared another action taken about joining a lawsuit to push back against the administration adding additional terms to some of our federal grant funding that require us to cooperate with ICE or abandon our DEI work. It is my understanding that there is a preliminary injunction in favor of cities and counties. We will continue to follow along and be a part of this lawsuit as it moves forward.

5. Roundtable of HREC Commissioners:

- Commissioner Loewenstern: **August Action Night | The Environmental Center**. August 5, 2025, 4:30-6:30 PM.
- Pronouns Online Update: Each commissioner will receive an email, asking for their consent to add pronouns to the HREC website.
- Land Acknowledgement: Idea shared about adding how we things are said, proper pronouns, to make things inclusive and accessible.

- **Welcoming Week Ideas and Chosen Events Discussion** - Chair Ventura:
At the June HREC meeting a small group volunteered and gathered to talk about safety when hosting a Welcoming Week Event: How can HREC support and back future events, whether HREC holds an event, using funds.
- There was discussion about defining the Human Rights and Equity Commissions mission, purpose, spending resources, and where & how to show up. and how/if they have a budget.
- There was discussion about how and if HREC has a budget and what funds are used. In the future, HREC wants to hold an event to feed the houseless.

Motion: Commissioner Vernotico motioned that the HREC will hold a future event to feed the houseless utilizing the HREC Welcoming Week funds. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion. Motion carried by 10 of the voting members, abstained by commissioner Anguiano, and 1 commissioner opposition.

Motion: Chair Ventura moved to approve that HREC support, in person, other groups holding events. Commissioner Van Tassel seconded the motion. Motion carried by all that attended today's meeting.

- With no meeting in August. When and how would we determine the HREC feeding the houseless event. Will be discussed during agenda item below: 7. Business, b Council Presentation Discussion.

6. Public Comment: In the interest of time, the public comment agenda item was skipped.

7. Business: Workplan Discussion. (Working Meeting with the Community).

- a. Welcoming Week Proclamation – Community Participation, Andrés Portela.

Stephanie Betteridge, Assistant City Manager & Chief Innovation Officer | Kathi Barguil, Community Relations Manager | Ian Leithsier, City Attorney.

Community Partners: Houn They/Them, Priscilla Calleros - she/her, were invited to join the discussion.

The City of Bend shared the Welcoming Week Proclamation draft with the Latino Community Association (LCA). They asked for a proposed language consideration:

"This proclamation reflects the voices of everyone who calls Bend—and Central Oregon—home. Whether rooted here for generations or newly arrived, each of us contributes to the evolving story of this region. Our collective well-being depends on honoring the dignity, dreams, and lived experiences of all community members, and ensuring that every voice is heard, valued, and reflected in the decisions that shape our shared future."

Proclamation Discussion Overview:

- **Welcoming Week Proclamation Timeline:**
 - **June:** Staff & Council Liaison- review the 2024 proclamation and draft the 2025 version.
 - **July:** HREC review before the meeting.
 - **July:** HREC, Staff, Community Partners meeting: Facilitated input session on framing, language, and community voice.

- **August:** Staff: Finalization with community-centered edits shared with Council and city leadership.
- **Council Meeting on September 3rd:** Proclamation read aloud, HREC members and community reps share context and stories.

The Welcoming Week Proclamation Draft was read aloud and then discussed (1:20:04).

There will be future talks about setting up HREC feeding the houseless event.

- Next Steps Discussed:
 - What stories do we want to share that illustrate our work and how do we help council understand the impact of HREC? What does a meaningful partnership between HREC, and council look like?
 - Work Plan – Focus Areas:
 - **Policy Advocacy:** Develop, evaluate, and recommend equity focused policies that support systematic change in bend.
 - **Advisory:** recommend policy and practice changes to the City Council through an equity lens.
 - **Community Engagement:** Develop and implement strategies for inclusive, sustained and trust-based engagement with the community.
 - **Education and Awareness:** Foster public and institutional learning through culturally relevant education that centers on the lived experiences of bend community members.
- **Past HREC Recommendations (Parking Lot) and Future Work/Policy:**
 - Supplier Diversity | HREC Connection
 - Gender Neutral Restroom Admin Policy Recommendation
 - Fair Housing - Immigration Resources
 - AIM (Assumptions Identified and Measure) Lens | HREC and Council Work Session.
- **What are we missing:**
 - Meaningful engagement due to barriers.
 - Highlight lived experiences and impact of HREC and how do we share them.
 - What does support from Council look like to help HREC to continue this work.
 - When departments ask for HREC recommendations, please report back to the commission.
 - Title II ADA website requirements, due in April 2026. What can HREC do to help.

8. August 30th, 2025, HREC meeting is canceled for summer break. The Human Rights and Equity hybrid meetings will be reconvened to their regular schedule on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

9. Adjourn: 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Larsen, Administrative Support Specialist, Accessibility



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