



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

October 22, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Calapooia Room, City Hall

Approved: **DRAFT**

Call to Order

Chair Allyson Dean called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Allyson Dean, Alyssa Nydegger, Hedio Schulte, Jamie Jones, Tami Cockeram, and Robyn Davis (Davis joined the meeting at 6:16 p.m. after the approval of the minutes.)

Members absent: None

Business from the public

There was no business from the public.

Approval of August 27, 2024, minutes

5:58 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner Jamie Jones moved to approve the August 27, 2024, minutes. Commissioner Hedio Schulte seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

River Rhythms and Summer Sounds recommendations

6:00 p.m.

The members began discussion on the proposed wording on page 5 of the agenda packet. Parks & Recreation Director Kim Lyddane explained that the first point would be problematic as far as including representation from the commissions. The group that decides who to have perform is kept small for the high confidentiality requirements of the performers. Even most of the Parks & Recreation staff are not privy to the information. Because of this, it would not be feasible to have commission representatives solicit feedback from their constituents. But Lyddane said that Parks & Recreation would greatly welcome performer recommendations or suggestions from the Human Relations Commission and their constituents.

Regarding the last point on conducting surveys following a concert, Lyddane explained that the Parks & Recreation department used to do that and eventually stopped because of the low response rate. Lyddane said that the department is open to start doing surveys again and to exploring different ways to conduct them. Using a QR code was suggested.

It was asked what the asterisk represented on the first point of the proposed wording. Dean said that it was for a footnote which read: "This is intended to occur at the earliest phase of exploration before final selection and round of contracts." Recorder Gina Burrese apologized for inadvertently leaving it off the document.

Lyddane passed out and read the code-of-conduct language for parks and recreation facilities as a possible reference. *

It was decided to take these next steps:

- The HRC will work with Parks & Recreation to solicit recommendations and feedback on what constituents want to see.
- The HRC and the Parks & Recreation department will connect with the Hispanic Advisory Committee (HAC) on collecting after-event feedback, obtaining introductions to local businesses to gain sponsorship for the types of performances they would like to see, and to receive recommendations for opening-act and main performers.
- Lyddane will work with City Attorney Sean Kidd to add language to the contract that would address hate speech and inciting violence.
- Parks and Recreation will incorporate disclaimer language at the events (signage and over the speakers) to specify that the views of the performer may not be the views of the City.
- Lyddane will work with Communications and Engagement Officer Matt Harrington on creating a user-friendly follow-up survey that perhaps would include a QR code. The HRC will contribute a question geared towards getting feedback on feeling welcome and valued at community events.
- The HRC members will volunteer as greeters at next summer's concerts to welcome people and encourage community members to take the survey as they leave.

HAC and NAACP representatives

6:58 p.m.

Dean volunteered to attend the November and the December NAACP meetings and the November HAC meeting. Commissioner Tami Cockeram will attend the December HAC meeting.

Commissioner Robyn Davis attended the September 12, 2024, NAACP meeting. This meeting was administrative in nature so there was nothing significant to report. Davis would like to attend future meetings.

Dean attended the September 24, 2024, HAC meeting. The meeting was focused on the debriefing of the Festival Latino event. The HAC received at least forty survey responses, showing the event as being well received. Dean said that this event could be used as an example of how dedicated volunteers can successfully put on a large event which engages people from across the valley.

Business from the Commission

7:06 p.m.

As a part of the Community Development Commission, Davis received citizen feedback regarding the removal of the Marvin's Garden homeless camp. Davis is drafting a letter to the City Council to develop a homeless task force and welcomed assistance from the commission members. Dean asked if the Housing Affordability Task Force would be included in that. Davis will investigate the feasibility of that. It was noted that Linn County has a homeless task force with City representation on it, including Mental Health Intervention Specialist Kiersten Glaeser. Dean asked Davis to report back to the group if there was a need for an additional task force.

Staff updates

7:15 p.m.

Lyddane announced a City Hall event on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.: City Hall-O-Ween. This is a free, family-friendly Halloween celebration for kids ages 1-12.

Lyddane explained that City staff are concentrating on the second year of the two-year budget cycle and the onboarding of at least two new City councilors in the new year.

Next meeting date

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Dean adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Signature on file

Signature on file

Gina Burrese
Recorder

Kim Lyddane
Staff Liaison

*Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. The documents are available by emailing cityclerk@albanyoregon.gov.