



FAIRBANKS DIVERSITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 10, 2017 – 5:30 PM  
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA



The Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) convened at 5:32 p.m. on the above date to conduct a Regular Meeting at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, with Interim Chair Angela Foster-Snow presiding and with the following members in attendance:

Members Present: Shirley Lee, Seat B Jeff Walters, Seat M  
Montean Jackson, Seat C Amber Taylor, Seat N  
Marna Sanford, Seat I Kelvin Lee, Seat O  
Jo Ann Borges, Seat K (arrived at 5:35) June Rogers, City Council Member  
Rita Davis, Seat L

Members Absent: Ana Maria Richards, Seat A (excused) Vacancy, Seat G  
Vacancy, Seat D Rosalind Kan, Seat H (excused)  
Travis Cole, Seat E (excused) Douglas Toelle, Seat J (excused)  
Trina Bailey, Seat F Mayor Jim Matherly (excused)

Also Present: D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk Eric Jewkes, Chief of Police  
Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff

**CALL TO ORDER & READING OF THE FDC MISSION STATEMENT**

Interim Chair Foster-Snow welcomed everyone and read aloud the FDC mission statement.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Lee, seconded by Mr. Lee, moved to APPROVE the Agenda.

Interim Chair Foster-Snow called for objection to APPROVING the Agenda and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS** (Limited to 3 Minutes)

Eric Jewkes, Fairbanks Chief of Police – Chief Jewkes gave an update on staffing levels and hiring efforts at the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD). He stated that FPD is still dedicated to community policing efforts and to diversity, but that the main focus at this time is on hiring. He stated that Fairbanks had seven homicides in 2016 which is greater per capita than the homicide rate in Anchorage for 2016. Chief Jewkes stated that the cold case detective is still working on cases and is making progress.

Ms. Rogers asked Chief Jewkes to speak to the Borough ordinance regarding alcohol sales. Chief Jewkes stated that the Borough will consider an ordinance on Thursday, January 19 that would extend the hours of package stores from midnight to 2 a.m. that would allow bars to stay open till 3:30 a.m. on New Year's Day, and would allow bars to begin serving alcohol an hour earlier on Sundays to accommodate football fans. He spoke against the ordinance.

Chief Jewkes and members discussed the diversity among FPD applicants and low-staffing levels at FPD. **Mr. Walters** encouraged FDC members to participate in FPD oral boards.

**Ms. Lee** asked if the Borough consulted with FPD before introducing the ordinance. Chief Jewkes replied that they did not. He stated that the City could adopt its own rules for hours of alcohol service. Chief Jewkes and members discussed DUI enforcement and arrests in the City.

Frank Turney, 329 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney stated that he feels like the FDC is not getting anywhere by bringing up the video that Glen Anderson posted to social media; he stated that there are other important issues to turn attention to. He spoke to the actions of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor in regard to jury nullification. He spoke to the discrimination of minorities during jury selection and expressed hope that an FDC member would look into it.

Marilyn Russell 221 Well Street, Fairbanks – Ms. Russell asked whether the FDC can come out with a statement of support for or opposition to an issue. She spoke to the timeliness of a statement with the approach of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr (MLK) Day.

Clerk Snider explained how the FDC may make recommendations to the City Council.

Jo Ann Borges, 1130 Vicki Lane, North Pole – Ms. Borges stated that she is speaking as a community member. She apologized for being late to the meeting. She stated that the ordinance to extend hours of alcohol service is all about benefiting tourism. She stated that while it may be an inconvenience, she believes it will have a positive economic impact on the community.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- a) Regular Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2016

**Ms. Lee**, seconded by **Mr. Walters**, moved to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2016.

**Interim Chair Foster-Snow** called for objection to APPROVING the Minutes and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a) Work Sessions with the City Council – First Session Scheduled for February 6 at 6 pm

Members discussed the focus and line-up for the work session with the City Council. They spoke to the history and progress of the FDC. Members agreed that the report could include a summary of FDC activities and accomplishments, the Diversity Action Plan (DAP), and City Council expectations of the FDC. **Ms. Rogers** stated that she would recommend that the City Council postpone adoption of the DAP to February 6. **Ms. Jackson** suggested that two FDC members speak in representation of the FDC and that other members attend for support. **Ms. Rogers** nominated Mr. Walters to speak; **Ms. Jackson** nominated Ms. Lee to speak. There was no objection to the nominated representatives.



**Interim Chair Foster-Snow** read aloud a portion of Fairbanks General Code (FGC) Sec. 2-234 outlining the duties/rules of the FDC. **Ms. Jackson** requested that Clerk Snider email that Code section to FDC members.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### a) FDC Policy on Member Absences

Clerk Snider distributed attendance statistics. Members discussed the rule that was set by the FDC in October of 2015 to allow up to three absences per year. **Ms. Davis** stated that the rule was instigated because the FDC had difficulty gaining a quorum; she stated that the rule was specifically meant for Committee chairs. **Ms. Sanford** stated that she recalled seeing a rule for attendance in the FGC. Clerk Snider read aloud FGC Sec. 2-234(1) which stated that "Members are expected to attend all scheduled meetings, unless excused by the membership." A lengthy debate ensued regarding excused and unexcused absences and the amount of absences that should be allowed per year.

**Ms. Sanford**, seconded by **Ms. Jackson**, moved to DEFINE "unexcused" as no communication with the Clerk prior to the meeting.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MOTION TO DEFINE "UNEXCUSED" AS NO COMMUNICATION WITH THE CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Taylor, K. Lee, Sanford, Davis, Jackson, S. Lee, Walters,  
NAYS: Borges  
ABSENT: Kan, Bailey, Cole, Toelle, Richards  
**Interim Chair Foster-Snow** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Mr. Walters**, seconded by **Ms. Sanford**, moved to CREATE A RULE that if a member reaches three unexcused absences in a calendar year, the member will be contacted by the Chair or Vice Chair.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO CREATE A RULE THAT IF A MEMBER REACHES THREE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES IN A CALENDAR YEAR, THE MEMBER WILL BE CONTACTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Taylor, K. Lee, Sanford, Borges, Davis, Jackson, S. Lee, Walters  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Kan, Bailey, Cole, Toelle, Richards  
**Interim Chair Foster-Snow** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Ms. Lee**, seconded by **Mr. Lee**, moved to CREATE A RULE that if a member misses three consecutive meetings and is unexcused, the member will be removed from the FDC.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO CREATE A RULE THAT IF A MEMBER MISSES THREE CONSECUTIVE MEETINGS AND IS UNEXCUSED, THE MEMBER WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE FDC AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Walters, S. Lee, Jackson, Davis, Borges, Sanford, K. Lee, Taylor  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Kan, Bailey, Cole, Toelle, Richards  
**Interim Chair Foster-Snow** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Ms. Sanford**, seconded by **Ms. Jackson**, moved that the attendance rules approved by the FDC be codified or be sent by resolution to the City Council.

**Interim Chair Foster-Snow** called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

### **FDC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) HR Vacancy and Hiring Status Report

**Interim Chair Foster-Snow** gave an update on position vacancies at the City of Fairbanks.

### **FDC MEMBERS COMMENTS**

**Interim Chair Foster-Snow** invited everyone to attend the Fire Station One renaming ceremony in honor of late Chief Warren Cummings at 3:30 p.m., January 11, 2017.

**Ms. Davis** wished everyone a Happy New Year; she stated she is looking forward to a new year.

**Ms. Jackson** wished everyone a Happy New Year. She spoke to the flyers regarding MLK Day community events that were emailed to FDC Members. She stated that the Annual Gospel Celebration will be at the Corinthian Baptist Church at 6:30 p.m. on January 13, 2017. She announced that the Annual Youth Breakfast event will take place on the morning of January 14 at the JP Jones Community Center. She stated that the breakfast is free to youth who are 18 or younger and is \$10 for adults. She reminded everyone that there are lots of opportunities to volunteer in community.

**Ms. Borges** stated that the New Year has arrived and that the FDC needs to make the best of it. She reminded members that everything they say and do reflects on the FDC.

**Ms. Taylor** wished everyone a Happy New Year. She stated that she is fairly new to the FDC and has been observing during the last few months. She expressed her belief that there are other things that can be done besides talk about the DAP and member absences. She stated that as a community member, a mother and a minority, she is troubled by many things. **Ms. Taylor** stated that she looks forward to making progress and doing things in the community.

**Ms. Rogers** spoke to effecting change in the community, and she spoke to the history of the FDC. She stated that she is glad **Ms. Taylor** is on the FDC. She thanked Chief Jewkes for attending and for being approachable and thoroughly responsive. She stated that she is always seeking to learn new things, and that FPD is a very complex organization.

**Ms. Lee** suggested that the FDC hold a strategic planning session to prioritize work for the coming year. She recommended that committee assignments be reaffirmed at the next meeting.



Mr. Lee stated that he has enjoyed serving on the FDC for several months. He stated that he would like to have more order in meetings because it can be frustrating as far as time is concerned. He commented that the evening's discussion reenergized him to do better. He shared that the Project Homeless Connect event will take place on January 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; he asked for volunteers.

Mr. Walters wished everyone a Happy New Year. He asked members to contact him if they have something to add to the list of items to present to the City Council. He stated that he will meet with Ms. Lee prior to the Work Session. He thanked Chief Jewkes and FPD for allowing FDC members to participate in job interviews. Mr. Walters spoke in support of the upcoming MLK events. He stated that soon he would like to discuss committees and strategic planning.

Ms. Sanford apologized for being absent at recent meetings. She stated that she appreciated Ms. Taylor's comments and that she supports Ms. Lee's suggestion about a strategic plan. Ms. Sanford spoke in support of more order in the FDC to make meetings more efficient. She stated that Alaska Legal Services and the Alaska Court System will offer free legal services on January 16 at the JP Jones Center starting at 10 am. She stated that if the FDC decided to do something about jury selection, a good place to start may be the District Attorney's (DA) office.

Interim Chair Foster-Snow stated that it may be interesting to invite the DA to a meeting to inform members of the jury selection process. She stated that Mayor Matherly was absent because he is attending his grandmother's birthday event. She encouraged everyone to take part in the Homeless Connect event.

### MEETING DATES

a) Next Meeting Date – February 14, 2017

Interim Chair Foster-Snow stated that the next regular meeting falls on Valentine's Day. She asked members if they would like to propose a different date. No members proposed a new date or objected to meeting on Valentine's Day. Ms. Rogers suggested bringing Valentine's Day treats to the next meeting.

### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Sanford, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

Hearing no objection, Interim Chair Foster-Snow declared the meeting ADJOURNED at 7:31 p.m.

*Ana Richards signing for Mayor*  
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Mayor Jim Matherly, Chair *Matherly*

*D. Danyelle Snider*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
D. Danyelle Snider, CMC, City Clerk

Transcribed by: DS