



FAIRBANKS DIVERSITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 14, 2018 – 5:30 P.M.
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA



The **Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC)** convened at 5:30 p.m. on the above date to conduct a Regular Meeting at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, with Mayor Jim Matherly presiding and with the following members in attendance:

Members Present: Zee Nace, Seat A Sara Harriger, Seat K
 Juanita Webb, Seat D (telephonic) Jeff Walters, Seat M
 Kathryn Ottersten, Seat E Kelvin Lee, Seat O
 Rosalind Kan, Seat H June Rogers, Councilmember

Members Absent: Lisa Slayton, Seat B (excused) Douglas Toelle, Seat J (excused)
 Montean Jackson, Seat C (excused) Vacant, Seat L
 Svetlana Nuss, Seat F Vacant, Seat N
 Vacant, Seat G Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director (excused)
 Vacant, Seat I

Also Present: D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk Patricia Manuel, HR Admin

CALL TO ORDER & READING OF THE FDC MISSION STATEMENT

Chair Matherly called the meeting to order and read the FDC Mission Statement. He announced that there was no quorum, so no action could be taken at the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Matherly led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS (Limited to 3 Minutes)

Frank Turney, 329 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney spoke to prisoners' right to vote, and he distributed a handout on the issue. He listed types of convictions that do not bar people from voting in Alaska. He asked whether the FDC is planning to set the jury discrimination issue aside. He spoke to racial discrimination in the jury pool, and commented on the importance of data collection to help solve the problem. He stated that if the group does not want to address the issue, he would still pursue it himself.

Ms. Rogers stated that Senator Coghill has come to two FDC meetings, and he has been invited to come again. She stated that his office is aware that the FDC wants him to work on the issue.

Marna Sanford, Fairbanks – Ms. Sanford stated that she came to return Ms. Slayton's book, and she hoped that someone would return the book for her. She stated that she is running for Seat A on the Borough Assembly and that there is a woman running for every seat at the Borough this election year. She announced that early voting would begin September 17, and she encouraged people to vote.

Mr. Walters asked about the candidate forum on Friday. **Ms. Sanford** replied that the Friday forum would be for some State House and Senate candidates along with candidates for U.S. Congress. She stated that there would be three forums for local candidates prior to the October election. She added that she serves on the “Kids Vote” board, and they can set up voter registration at local schools.

Ms. Ottersten stated that she and **Ms. Sanford** will both participate in the Interior Taxpayers’ Association candidate forum. She borrowed **Ms. Slayton’s** book and offered to return it to her.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Ms. Kan stated that International Friendship Day would be held on Saturday, October 20 at Pioneer Park from 12 – 5 p.m. She stated that people do not realize what a diverse place Fairbanks is. She talked about entertainment at the Friendship Day event and stated that the event was proclaimed by all three local mayors as an official Fairbanks celebration.

Ms. Harriger asked whether the City supports the event and whether the FDC could provide snacks and coffee at their table. **Ms. Kan** affirmed that the group could do that. **Mr. Walters** stated that the event is a good place to recruit and get the word out about the FDC. **Ms. Harriger** stated that it would be a good place to gather feedback on what diversity means to the community.

Mr. Lee shared that the Stand Down event for veterans would be held on Saturday, August 18 from 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. **Chair Matherly** announced that Police Safety Day would take place the same afternoon at the Carlson Center.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Chair Matherly gave a brief update on job vacancies at the City. **Mr. Walters** requested that City department heads attend FDC meetings on a rotating basis to provide reports, and he requested that the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) provide such reports to the FDC quarterly.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Nomination and Appointment of Vice Chairperson and Second Vice Chairperson

Chair Matherly stated that it would be **Mr. Walters’** last meeting as the Vice Chair. He asked members to consider serving as Vice Chair or Second Vice Chair, and he explained a little about what the Vice Chair does. He stated that **Mr. Walters** has done a great job. He asked if anyone was interested. **Ms. Ottersten** nominated **Ms. Harriger**; **Ms. Harriger** stated that she would consider it. **Chair Matherly** stated that he had spoken briefly with **Ms. Jackson** about the Vice Chair position and that he would speak with her about it some more.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Possible Questions to Submit for Local Candidate Forum in September

Members held a brief discussion on the issue. **Mr. Walters** stated that he would like candidates to be asked some questions that would raise FDC awareness. Clerk Snider recommended that individuals contact Helenmarie Matesi with the League of Women Voters if they have recommendations for forum questions. She stated that she would send Ms. Matesi's contact information to FDC members.

b) Review of FDC Subcommittees

Chair Matherly asked Ms. Harriger which committee she would like to be assigned to. **Ms. Harriger** indicated that she would like to serve on the Education/Outreach Committee. **Chair Matherly** asked whether anyone would like to be reassigned to a different committee. **Mr. Walters** stated that he would like to be moved to the Policies and Procedures Committee. **Chair Matherly** assigned Ms. Nuss to the Education/Outreach Committee.

c) Diversity Training for FDC Members

Chair Matherly stated that Ms. Slayton had requested that this item be on the agenda; he requested that it be discussed at another time when Ms. Slayton is present.

Ms. Rogers stated she would like the FDC to have another training session on the Open Meetings Act (OMA) with all the new members coming on board. **Chair Matherly** spoke to the importance of the OMA, and he talked about the upcoming appointment of new member Stephen Greenlaw.

FDC COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Committee Assignments for Members Nuss and Harriger

This item was addressed under New Business, Item (b).

b) Update on FDC Facebook Page

Ms. Harriger shared that the new FDC Facebook page has been set up and can be found at @diversityfairbanks. She stated that they have not been able to shut down the old FDC Facebook page yet. She stated that before they can begin posting new information, the group needs to establish a plan. She stated the smaller committee should meet and bring something back to the bigger group, and she added that the intent is to be upbeat, supportive, and non-political. **Ms. Nace** suggested that it may work best to have only one individual posting information. **Chair Matherly** commented about how controversial and nasty Facebook can be and stated that content is important. He stated that he would like to talk more about it. Clerk Snider mentioned the City's draft social media policy and reminded the group that the social media page is a public record. She requested to be included in the committee meeting to discuss the Facebook page.

FDC MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Walters stated that it was a good meeting even though there was no quorum. He stated that he is now thinking about International Friendship Day, and he thanked Ms. Kan for bringing it up. He stated that he would like FDC members to interact more at the event, not just sit at a table. Regarding FDC training, **Mr. Walters** stated that there was some training when the FDC was first

formed; he suggested that the group hold a meeting with a facilitator once new members are on board. He stated that the FDC should not necessarily shy away from controversial topics on social media because that is how change is accomplished.

Ms. Harriger stated that she had no comments.

Ms. Rogers thanked Mr. Walters for his thoughtfulness and thoroughness in bringing issues forward. She expressed appreciation for his work.

Ms. Ottersten stated that only she and Ms. Foster-Snow attended the Education/Outreach committee meeting last Friday. She thanked Mr. Walters for his service as Vice Chair. She stated that she thought the Tanana Valley State Fair was better than it has been the past couple of years; she mentioned the possibility of the FDC hosting a booth there in the future.

Ms. Kan agreed with Mr. Walters that members should mingle more at the International Friendship Day event. She stated that members should have name tags to wear, and it would be a great idea to serve coffee at the event. She expressed appreciation to Mr. Walters as Vice Chair.

Mr. Lee thanked Mr. Walters for his service as Vice Chair. He spoke about the Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) training and facilitation. He shared that a trainer will be in Fairbanks on August 15 at the JP Jones Center from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. to talk more about the training.

Ms. Nace thanked Mr. Walters for his work as Vice Chair; she spoke fondly of Mr. Walters and stated that he was her first high school counselor.

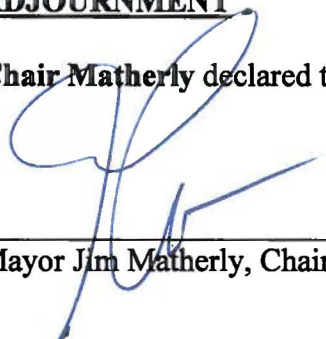
Chair Matherly reminded folks that school will start this week and to watch out for children.

MEETING DATES

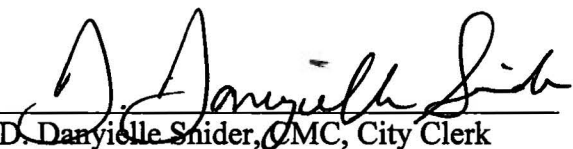
The next Regular Meeting date for the FDC is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Matherly declared the meeting ADJOURNED at 6:33 p.m.



Mayor Jim Matherly, Chair



D. Danyielle Snider, OMC, City Clerk

Transcribed by: DS