



FAIRBANKS DIVERSITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 – 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 Vice Chair Sara Harriger (Seat K) presiding and with the following members in attendance:

Members Present:    Juanita Webb, Seat D (telephonic)            Jeff Walters, Seat M  
                             David Rucker, Seat G                                    Kelvin Lee, Seat O  
                             Doug Toelle, Seat J                                        June Rogers, Councilmember  
                             Rita Davis, Seat L                                         Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director

Members Absent:    Vacant, Seat A                                                Vacant, Seat H  
                             Lisa Slayton, Seat B                                       Vacant, Seat I  
                             Montean Jackson, Seat C                                Vacant, Seat N  
                             Shelissa Thomas, Seat E (excused)                 Jim Matherly, Mayor/Chair (excused)  
                             Vacant, Seat F

Also Present:            Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff

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

**Vice Chair Harriger** called the meeting to order; she stated there is not a quorum. She asked for a volunteer to read the FDC Mission Statement. **Ms. Rogers** volunteered and read it aloud.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Vice Chair Harriger** led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*The agenda could not be approved as there was no quorum.*

**Vice Chair Harriger** shared that the meeting was designed to be brief to allow folks to attend the Interior Taxpayers' Association (ITA) local candidate forum which begins at 6:30 p.m.

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

Allen Mitchell, 2663 Turner Street, Fairbanks – Mr. Mitchell stated someone suggested that he bring his issue to the FDC. He stated he is concerned with the location of the City snow dump on South Cushman Street where “Reflections” used to be. He stated that the location causes there to be less appeal for South Fairbanks. He suggested that the location be used for another purpose, such as a grocery store. He indicated that residents on the South Side may feel that the City does not care about them. He stated that the snow dump location is on prime real estate.

**Ms. Rogers** asked Mr. Mitchell if he could return to City Hall to speak to the City Council. **Mr. Walters** asked when the City started using the site as a snow dump. Mr. Mitchell stated the City just finished prepping the site for snow dump use.

**Ms. Rogers** explained how the site came to be a snow dump site for the City of Fairbanks and spoke to some of the challenges with snow removal. Chief of Staff Mike Meeks stated that the City has lost some snow dumps over the past several years, and it gained two recently, including the “Reflections” site. He explained the process by which the City purchases property to use as a snow dump. *Mr. Toelle commented, but his comments were inaudible.*

### **MAYOR’S COMMENTS & REPORT**

a) Update on City Council Review of City Boards and Commissions

**Ms. Rogers** stated that the City Council has held a couple of sessions on Board and Commission review. She reported the City Council was made aware that the FDC has a plan to review the Diversity Action Plan. **Vice Chair Harriger** stated she heard that there was some concern about member attendance; **Ms. Rogers** stated that there has also been concern by the FDC regarding member attendance. **Vice Chair Harriger** pointed out that there are currently five vacancies on the FDC, which makes it more challenging to meet quorum. She stated she also heard that the City Council is considering reducing the FDC membership. **Ms. Rogers** stated that the direction of the City Council was to reduce the membership to twelve voting members. **Mr. Rucker** stated that the School District’s Diversity Committee currently has several vacancies as well. *Ms. Davis commented, but her comments were inaudible.* **Mr. Walters** requested that the FDC be given an opportunity to weigh in prior to any major changes being made to the FDC by the City Council.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Mr. Rucker** stated the School District will be hosting community engagement sessions for each of the high schools in the Borough. He stated that details and dates were in a recent press release.

**Ms. Rogers** stated that July 8 was National Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day. She spoke to the importance of awareness in the community and to the work being done locally.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2019

*The minutes could not be approved as there was no quorum.*

### **HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT**

**Ms. Foster-Snow** stated that the City is actively recruiting for the position of Chief Financial Officer. She stated the City is also still looking to fill the Deputy City Attorney position. She stated there is open recruitment for the Dispatch and Police Departments.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Mr. Walters** stated that he missed the June and July FDC meetings. In reference to the “Acknowledgement of the FDC Purpose and Role” memorandum that FDC members are being asked to sign, he asked whether other City Board and Commission members were being asked to sign a similar statement. He stated that the acknowledgement seems benign, but he does not want it to become a barrier to someone volunteering to serve on the FDC – especially with all the current vacancies. **Mr. Lee** stated that the basis for the conversation surrounding the acknowledgement was for accountability. **Ms. Rogers** stated that it is an opportune time for an acknowledgement of protocol by all City committee members. **Mr. Rucker** spoke in favor of the acknowledgement; he spoke to the importance of members maintaining order and keeping emotions in check at meetings. **Mr. Toelle** expressed hope that applicants were being given expectations at the point of entry during the interview process. **Mr. Walters** expressed concern with having members sign the acknowledgement. **Ms. Rogers** stated that it is rather common for committee members to sign a document acknowledging expectations. **Vice Chair Harriger** stated she does not believe it would hurt to ask members to agree to the protocol.

## FDC MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

**Mr. Walters** shared that the Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) organization sent out a questionnaire to potential candidates for City Council, Borough Assembly, and City Mayor. He stated the results of the questionnaire were available at the PFLAG booth at the Tanana Valley State Fair. He stated that the organization does not endorse any particular candidate(s), and each candidate’s response was made available to the public at the fair. He stated he would be happy to share the results of the questionnaire with anyone.

## MEETING DATES

- a) FDC Work Session for Diversity Action Plan Review, Saturday, September 21, 2019

**Vice Chair Harriger** reminded everyone of the upcoming Work Session.

- b) Next Regular Meeting Date, October 8, 2019

**Vice Chair Harriger** stated the next regular meeting is scheduled for October 8. She proposed that the next Education & Outreach and Accessibility Committee meetings to be combined on September 19 to discuss the possibility of live-streaming FDC meetings on Facebook. She stated she hopes the group can bring back a recommendation to the FDC. **Ms. Rogers** stated that she could see potential problems with live-streaming meetings, and she suggested that the City Attorney be consulted.

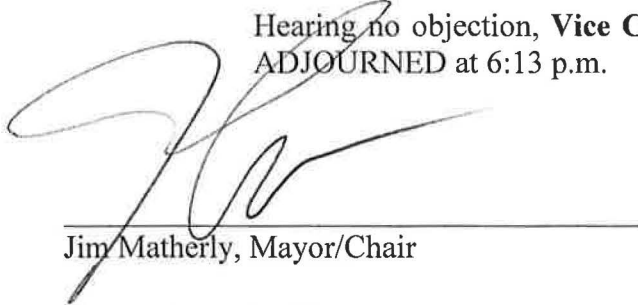
## ADJOURNMENT

**Vice Chair Harriger** thanked everyone who attended and stated that it was a good turnout for having so many vacancies.

**Ms. Rogers** asked whether quorum could be determined in a different way, possibly not taking vacancies into account.

**Mr. Toelle**, seconded by **Mr. Rucker**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

Hearing no objection, **Vice Chair Harriger** declared the meeting  
ADJOURNED at 6:13 p.m.



Jim Matherly, Mayor/Chair



D. Danyielle Spider, CMC, City Clerk

Transcribed by: DS