



FAIRBANKS DIVERSITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 2022, 5:30 – 7:00 P.M.
HELD VIA [ZOOM WEBINAR](#) AND AT
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 via Zoom Webinar and at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska with Chair Andrew Aquino (Seat G) presiding (P) and with the following members in attendance [Z = Zoom; P = In Person]:

Members Present: (P) Timothy Ledna, Seat A (Z) Kelvin Lee, Seat I
(Z) Robert Dorton, Seat B (Z) Cheyenna Kuplack, Seat J (5:45 p.m.)
(Z) Juanita Webb, Seat D (P) Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director
(P) Dorothy Shockley, Seat F (Z) June Rogers, Council Member
(P) Wendy Tisland, Seat H

Members Absent: Jose Martinez II, Seat C Abigail North, Seat K (excused)
Shelissa Thomas, Seat E Jim Matherly, Mayor

Also Present: (P) D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk (P) Paul Ewers, City Attorney
(P) Rochelle Rodak, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER & READING OF THE FDC MISSION STATEMENT

Chair Aquino called the meeting to order and read the FDC mission statement.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Aquino led the FDC in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

Chair Aquino asked that all members briefly introduce themselves and share how they celebrated the New Year. He began by sharing that he is the Project Manager for the Office of the President of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), adding that he celebrated the New Year by deciding to invest in a snowplow service.

J. Rogers shared that she is lifelong Fairbanks resident and has done volunteer work with many organizations throughout the City, including serving as the City Council representative to the FDC. She went on to talk about her family's tradition of playing board games at her downtown business and how they would light sparklers and walk downtown to watch the time change to midnight on the big clock on Second Avenue and Cushman Street to ring in the New Year.

T. Ledna stated that he is celebrating his second year in Fairbanks and that his primary, fulltime position is with the Fairbanks Reentry Coalition; he stated he has also volunteered in many

different capacities including involvement with the Mobile Crisis Team, Family Centered Services of Alaska, and Monroe High School. He added that he is also a licensed therapeutic foster parent. He shared that he celebrated the New Year with the fireworks downtown as well as obtaining his designation as a Chemical Dependency Counselor from Alaska Behavioral Health.

B. Dorton shared that he works at the Fairbanks Native Association and serves on the Peer Support Advisory Board where he was instrumental in developing peer certification. He added that they are working on developing a Cultural Competency aspect into the certification, which would be discussed at the next Alaska Behavioral Health Commission meeting, where he also serves.

K. Lee stated that he has been the Board President at No Limits for the past eight years, adding that he spent the New Year holiday in South Carolina attending a meeting. He went on to share that he also took a cruise and spent some time in Mexico, stating that it was a good refresher for him to come ready to serve. He noted some of his future projects, including working with people who are coming out of the legal system through the Fairbanks Reentry Coalition.

W. Tisland shared that she is a lifelong resident of Fairbanks and currently serves as the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Compliance Officer for the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB); she added that she serves as the FNSB's representative on the FDC. She stated that she did not do anything to celebrate the New Year.

D. Shockley stated that she is Upper Koyukuk Athabascan, born in Fairbanks and raised in Alaska. She noted that her family came from the Rampart, Tanana, and Yukon River areas. She shared that holiday provided a much-needed quiet time for her, and she celebrated the next day with friends; she stated she took time later that week to visit Chena Hot Springs. She concluded by stating that she works for the Bean Ridge Corporation, which was created under the Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act. She added that the Corporation encompasses approximately 69,000 acres around Manley, Alaska and serves 57 shareholders.

J. Webb shared that she is a personal care attendant and serves as the Vendor Coordinator for the Tanana Valley State Fair. She stated that she was working during New Year holiday.

C. Kuplack stated that she is the Public Relations Specialist for Doyon, Limited. She shared that she celebrated the New Year in Los Angeles at Disney Land with her daughter, then got stuck in Seattle for nine days due to flight cancellations.

Deputy City Clerk Rodak introduced herself, adding that she had been with the Clerk's office and a resident of Alaska for just over a year. She shared that New Years was spent with her family watching the New York ball drop at 8:00 p.m. Alaska time.

A. Foster-Snow introduced herself as the City's HR Director and shared that she spends all holidays involving fireworks calming her pet bulldogs.

City Clerk Snider explained that she was attending to help Deputy Clerk Rodak become acquainted with the FDC, as Ms. Rodak would be acting as Clerk during some future meetings. She added

that she spent a quiet night with friends to celebrate the New Year, as well as removing a lot of snow. She requested that the OMA Presentation be moved to an earlier time in the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

T. Ledna, seconded by **D. Shockley**, moved to APPROVE the Agenda.

T. Ledna requested that New Business be moved up on the agenda to be heard prior to Citizens Comments.

There being no objection to the proposed changes, the Agenda, as Amended was APPROVED.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Open Meetings Act Presentation by City Attorney and City Clerk

City Attorney Paul Ewers and City Clerk Snider provided a summary presentation of the Open Meetings Act to the FDC and answered questions from FDC members.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS (Limited to 3 Minutes)

There were no Citizens' Comments.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Aquino stated that the results from the poll regarding meeting times indicated that the meetings should continue to be held once per month on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. He added that the meetings will continue to be held both in person and virtually. He asked that the FDC make a decision on changes to Resolution No. 4981, as it would be voted on by the City Council the following week, and he did not want to miss the opportunity for the FDC to provide input.

D. Shockley asked if the majority of the FDC members had participated in the poll and indicated that she had not received the poll. **Chair Aquino** stated that he would send the poll again.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2021

T. Ledna, seconded by **W. Tisland**, moved to APPROVE the meeting minutes as presented.

There being no objection, the minutes were APPROVED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Resolution No. 4981, Reading of Land Acknowledgement at City Council Meetings.

B. Dorton, seconded by **D. Shockley**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4981 as presented with the FDC recommendations.

D. Shockley shared that she had met with B. Dorton and C. Kuplack to develop the most recent language and read the proposed Land Acknowledgment aloud. She shared that she had sent the proposed language to Sharon McConnell, the CEO of Denakkanaaga, Inc., who gave her informal approval but expressed her desire to have the Chief review the document. She went on to state that while that review should happen the following day, she did not feel that the FDC had officially garnered the blessing of the Denakkanaaga Elders; she asked for discussion on how to amend the resolution appropriately.

B. Dorton asked if it would be best to amend the language or postpone the item to the next meeting.

J. Rogers recommended that the resolution be postponed, stating that she could provide a report to the City Council. She added that it was important to involve the Elders and have their blessing.

B. Dorton also spoke in favor of postponement.

D. Shockley stated that while she would prefer to postpone, she did not want to miss the FDC's opportunity to provide input on the resolution prior to a vote by the City Council and asked for input from the City Clerk.

City Clerk Snider stated that the Resolution had been introduced in August 2021 and postponed multiple times, adding that there was not a guarantee that it would be postponed further. She stated that while the City Council may vote to postpone, it is not guaranteed. She stated that the FDC would run a risk of not having its recommendation heard if it did not forward a recommendation before the next regular City Council meeting.

D. Shockley asked if a special FDC meeting could be held to further discuss the resolution. Clerk Snider stated that the City Council would be meeting in six days, on Monday, January 17, 2022.

Chair Aquino asked if there was a process by which the FDC could hold an online vote, to which Clerk Snider stated that there was not.

W. Tisland suggested that the FDC could support the original language, with the hope that it is approved by the City Council; she added that the language could be amended in the future. She stated that the FDC has had the opportunity to consider the resolution for several months.

T. Ledna expressed his desire to trust J. Rogers and her suggestion to postpone.

J. Webb stated that the resolution should be postponed due to the lack of Elder approval, adding that it would be disrespectful to approve the resolution prior to receiving their input. She added that if the City Council did not postpone, at least the FDC had done the right thing by waiting for the blessing of the Elders.

D. Shockley, seconded by **B. Dorton**, moved to AMEND the proposed version of Resolution No. 4981 by striking the language "crafted and," in the first Whereas.

There being no objections, the motion CARRIED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4981, AS AMENDED, AS THE FDC'S RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Ledna, Dorton, Lee, Kuplack, Shockley, Aquino
NAYS: Webb, Tisland
ABSENT: Martinez, Thomas, North

Chair Aquino declared the MOTION CARRIED.

b) Diversity Action Plan (DAP) Review

i) Proposed changes to Goals 1 and 2 (submitted by W. Tisland and A. Foster-Snow)

Chair Aquino shared the plan for updating the DAP, stating that the proposed changes for each set of goals would be heard in one meeting, then discussed/amended/approved at the following meeting.

W. Tisland explained that the format used to update goals 1 and 2 is the same as the DAP was written originally, adding that the proposed changes are marked with an explanation shown in the recommendation column.

Chair Aquino asked if there were any changes that the FDC should pay special attention to. **W. Tisland** stated she did not believe that there were, adding that most of the proposed changes are simply updates. She stated that there was a lot of discussion regarding the interview process and the difficulty that is presented when trying to schedule panel interviews to include FDC members.

A. Foster-Snow stated that it could be helpful to determine monthly availability at each FDC meeting of member availability to serve on interview panels to help facilitate interview scheduling.

D. Shockley asked about the addition of data regarding employee diversity. **W. Tisland** stated that the DAP already includes the reporting of data from the HR department. **A. Foster-Snow** indicated that there are many different reports that could be presented to the FDC; she recommended that the FDC determine which points of information they would like to have included in reports. **D. Shockley** stated that she would like to see a report from five years ago to compare with a current one to include a breakdown of diversity within the City.

Chair Aquino encouraged the FDC to consider which metrics they would like to see reported and bring those suggestions to the next regular meeting.

FDC MEMBERS' COMMENTS

T. Ledna shared about his involvement with Fairbanks Community Bingo and the success of the first event. He indicated that he would like to gain the FDC's approval to sponsor that event with

the intent to gather more recognition of the FDC. He noted some of the other associations who have signed on as sponsors. **Chair Aquino** noted that community involvement is included in the DAP and spoke in favor of sponsoring.

T. Ledna, seconded by **C. Kuplack**, moved to have the Fairbanks Diversity Council become a co-sponsor, in name only, of the Fairbanks Community Bingo event.

There being no objections, the motion CARRIED.

J. Webb expressed her disappointment that the FDC's recommendation on Resolution No. 4981 was not postponed as was suggested by Council Member Rogers. She asked that the FDC be more aware of timelines and processes to ensure that those who are impacted are given the proper respect in the future.

Clerk Snider asked Chair Aquino to remind the FDC which members would be responsible for working on DAP Goals 3 and 4 prior to the next meeting.

Chair Aquino stated that he and C. Kuplack would be working on the next set of goals.

MEETING DATES

Chair Aquino stated that the next regular meeting would be held on Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

D. Shockley, seconded by **C. Kuplack**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

There being no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

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March 15, 2022

Andrew Aquino, Chair



D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Transcribed by: RR