



FAIRBANKS DIVERSITY COUNCIL  
 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
 MAY 9, 2023, 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) was scheduled to meet 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. **Chair Dorothy Shockley** (Seat F) was present (P), and the following members were also in attendance [Z = Zoom; P = In Person]:

Members Present: (P) Timothy Ledna, Seat A (P) Karen Blackburn, Seat I (at 5:56)  
 (Z) Juanita Webb, Seat D (Z) Rachael Kvpil, Seat K  
 (P) Andrew Aquino, Seat G (at 5:41) (P) June Rogers, Council Member

Members Absent: *Vacant*, Seat B *Vacant*, Seat J  
*Vacant*, Seat C Angela Snow, HR Director (excused)  
 Shelissa Thomas, Seat E David Pruhs, Mayor (excused)  
 Wendy Tisland, Seat H (excused)

Also Present: (P) D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Chair Shockley** called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Chair Shockley** asked T. Ledna to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**T. Ledna**, seconded by **A. Aquino**, moved to APPROVE the agenda.

**Chair Shockley** called for objection to the APPROVAL of the Agenda and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2023

**T. Ledna**, seconded by **A. Aquino**, moved to APPROVE the meeting minutes.

**Chair Shockley** called for objection to the APPROVAL of the meeting minutes and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

**Chair Shockley** reported that she met with Mayor Pruhs and Clerk Snider the prior day to discuss the recent struggles of the FDC and how to make improvements. She shared that she recommended

a change to the quorum requirements for the FDC, which the Mayor supported. She stated that Mayor Pruhs raised the idea of the FDC becoming an independent entity, and he asked what he could do to help members be more engaged. **Chair Shockley** reported that a reduction to the number of FDC members was also discussed at the meeting, but she related to Mayor Pruhs that the FDC membership did not support that idea. She stated that being more present in the community would be helpful.

**J. Rogers** stated that the FDC was the most productive when it had the largest group of members. She commented on the limitations of the FDC, including the fact that the FDC does not have its own budget. She stated that candid conversations are necessary in order to move forward

**Chair Shockley** stated that she found some notes from early meetings of the FDC from 2016 and indicated that the FDC tends to react during a crisis instead of being proactive when there is no crisis. She stated that some of the recommendations at that time were for the FDC to: 1) advocate for resolution to unsolved murder cases, 2) research how other places are addressing issues impacting police in minority communities, 3) look at how the majority should acknowledge privilege in society and tie it into the “Humans of Fairbanks” project, 4) continue to organize community forums and discussions about race and related issues in Fairbanks and encourage public participation, and 5) have designated members attend other meetings in the community and bring issues and concerns back to the FDC.

**J. Rogers** stated that several administrations were involved in the activities of the FDC; she encouraged continued communication between Chair Shockley and the City Administration.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### a) FDC Calendar of Events

**Chair Shockley** reviewed the list of events. Clerk Snider stated that the list was derived from various members sending her information; she stated that members can add events to the list by contacting her. **Chair Shockley** indicated that it may help if the FDC formally commits to participation at certain events. **J. Rogers** disagreed; she stated that such a formal commitment has hindered in the past. She stated that there is no need for anything elaborate and that FDC members could simply talk with people.

**Chair Shockley** asked for input on what is needed to attend events. **K. Blackburn** shared that she was invited to attend Juneteenth planning meetings, and she could let the group know that the FDC is interested in participating in the event. She stated that she also attends the NAACP monthly meetings. **Chair Shockley** stated that it would be appropriate for FDC members to begin attending other community meetings.

**J. Rogers** stated that each member has a responsibility to help the FDC grow by searching for places in the community to bring the FDC’s voice.

**T. Ledna** asked about the end goal of the FDC’s attendance at community events. **Chair Shockley** replied that it is important for other community organizations to know that the FDC exists. **T. Ledna** reminded everyone that much of the material related to community outreach in the Diversity Action Plan (DAP) was recently eliminated. He spoke to the difficulty in getting FDC members to engage in and attend community events when it has struggled to obtain a quorum for

meetings. **Chair Shockley** stated that she came on as an FDC member near the end of that discussion. Members briefly discussed the productivity of the FDC and under what circumstances the FDC has thrived in the past.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### a) Quorum Regulations

**Chair Shockley** asked for input on quorum requirements for the FDC.

**T. Ledna**, seconded by **K. Blackburn**, moved to recommend to the City Council that Fairbanks General Code (FGC) Sec. 2-233(c) be amended to state that a quorum of the FDC consists of a majority of seated, appointed members.

**Chair Shockley** called for a voice vote on the motion to RECOMMEND the FGC amendment to the City Council; all members voted in favor.

### b) FDC Brochure and Other Materials

**T. Ledna** stated that he has not worked with the draft sent to him by Clerk Snider because he was unsure what changes to make without having direction from the FDC. He stated that people do want a takeaway from attending an event and visiting a table.

*A quorum was lost at 6:36 p.m. when K. Blackburn left the meeting.*

After much discussion, members came to a consensus to reword the title to read, "Fairbanks Diversity Council," enlarge the title, add the FDC mission statement under the member photo, enlarge the FDC logo and move it to the top of the cover, enlarge the font in under the headers, and reword the headers to read:

- What we do
- Who we are
- When we meet
- How to get involved

### c) Diversity Training Ideas

*This item was not addressed.*

### d) Vice Chair Vacancy

**Chair Shockley** shared that her term as chair would soon end. She asked that the Vice Chair vacancy item be added to the next agenda.

**Chair Shockley** recognized **A. Aquino** for his outstanding membership on the FDC; she stated she is sad to see him go. **A. Aquino** shared that this will be his last meeting as a member of the FDC. He stated that he feels he can channel his efforts elsewhere, and he commented that **Chair Shockley's** earlier comments about the FDC becoming a separate entity sparked his curiosity. He

shared that he is an impatient person, and he likes seeing action. **A. Aquino** stated that he also wants to focus more on his education and his home life, so he is backing away from some other extracurricular interests and activities. He shared that the FDC will still hear from him in some way. Members applauded A. Aquino for his contributions to the FDC. **Chair Shockley** again thanked A. Aquino for being such a strong member and for all the help he has given to her.

- e) FDC Participation in Golden Days Parade
  - i. Member interest
  - ii. Resources needed
  - iii. Funding estimate for rack card printing, parade entry fee, and t-shirts

**T. Ledna**, in reference to some comments he made during the informal discussion at the last meeting when there was no quorum, reported that the vehicle he thought the FDC may be able to use at the Golden Days Parade is no longer available.

**Chair Shockley** indicated that members could put together a list of resources needed for various events. Clerk Snider stated that she could compile a listing of the cost to participate in each event on the FDC's calendar. She recommended that the FDC decide which events they would like to commit to participating in to avoid spending money to register and not have members show up.

**J. Rogers** shared about her past experiences when members did not show up to an event to represent the FDC.

**R. Kvapil** shared her availability for the events listed on the FDC calendar.

Members discussed options and cost for purchasing matching t-shirts, bibs, or hats to wear as a group.

**J. Webb** pointed out that the FDC is not currently a functioning group and indicated that she is unsure why members are discussing purchasing t-shirts. **T. Ledna** and **Chair Shockley** spoke in support of trying to help recruit new members by attending events, while spreading word in the community that the FDC exists.

**Chair Shockley** summarized items to work on: 20 t-shirts, 10 hats, candy, rack cards, event registration, and member commitment/sign-ups.

**Chair Shockley** and **R. Kvapil** stated they would be able to attend the Juneteenth event on June 17. **Chair Shockley** stated that the event will go from noon to 5 p.m. and she could attend from 1 – 3 p.m. **R. Kvapil** stated that she could take an afternoon shift, likely around 2 p.m. There was also discussion about also hosting a table at the Midnight Sun Festival, and **Chair Shockley** stated that she does not see a need to be there past 8 p.m.

Clerk Snider requested to meet with Chair Shockley to work out details surrounding the FDC's participation in events.

## FDC MEMBERS' COMMENTS

**J. Rogers** spoke about the establishment of the FDC by former Mayor Eberhart, and she emphasized the importance of the FDC as a council versus a committee. She spoke to some of the past accomplishments of the FDC, specifically when the group helped to bring about the approval for a cold case detective at the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD). She spoke about the potential of the FDC when things are done through the proper channels. **J. Rogers** spoke to the importance of working together and developing good relationships.

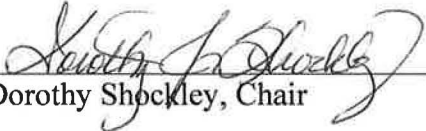
**Chair Shockley** stated that she would love to see a list of accomplishments of the FDC over the years.

## MEETING DATES

- a) Next Regular Meeting Date, June 13, 2023

## ADJOURNMENT

Although there was no quorum, **Chair Shockley** adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

  
Dorothy Shockley, Chair

  
D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Transcribed by: DS