



FAIRBANKS DIVERSITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2024, 5:30 – 7:00 P.M.
HELD VIA [ZOOM WEBINAR](#) AND AT
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA



Chair Juanita Webb called the regular meeting of the **Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC)** to order at 5:41 p.m. on the above date. Attendance was as follows:

Members Present (in person):

Juanita Webb, Chair, Seat D
Dorothy Shockley, Seat F
Wendy Tisland, Seat H

Members Absent:

Richard Basarab, Seat B
Vacant, Seat C
Marsha Oss, Seat E
Jonathan Bagwill, Seat G
Rachael Kvapil, Seat K

Members Present (Zoom):

Timothy Ledna, Seat A
Karen Blackburn, Seat I
Roscoe Britton, Seat J (unable to be heard on Zoom)
June Rogers, City Council Member
Jake Merritt, HR Director

Others Present:

D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
Tom Chard, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER (Reading of Mission Statement and Land Acknowledgement)

Chair Webb asked W. Tisland to read the FDC Mission Statement, and she asked D. Shockley to read the Land Acknowledgement.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Webb led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. Shockley, seconded by **W. Tisland**, moved to APPROVE the agenda.

Chair Webb called for a voice vote on the motion to APPROVE the agenda, and all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2023

D. Shockley, seconded by **W. Tisland**, moved to APPROVE the minutes.

Chair Webb called for a voice vote on the motion to APPROVE the minutes, and all members voted in favor.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS (limited to 3 minutes)

Andy Harrington, 4624 Stanford Drive, Fairbanks – A. Harrington announced that there would be a “Race Against Racism” on Saturday, June 1. He stated that the race has been held most years since 1999, and it is a family event. He explained that the run (or walk) is 5 – 10 kilometers, and the route is designed to pass by landmarks named after people from diverse backgrounds who have contributed to the quality of life in Interior Alaska. He mentioned several of the landmarks along the route and stated that they try to keep the registration fees as low as possible. A. Harrington stated he would like as much assistance as possible to help spread the word about the event. He invited the Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) to cosponsor the event in hopes that it may help facilitate the City permitting process.

J. Rogers fondly recalled having served with A. Harrington on past committees. She asked him if he serves on the Juneteenth committee. A. Harrington stated that he and his wife both serve on the Juneteenth planning committee. **J. Rogers** asked whether A. Harrington could help the FDC secure a table at the Juneteenth event. A. Harrington stated that he could look into it and send information back to the City Clerk. **J. Rogers** asked R. Britton if he would be willing to host an FDC table at the Juneteenth event.

T. Ledna, seconded by **R. Britton**, moved that the FDC cosponsor the “Race Against Racism” event.

Chair Webb called for a voice vote on the motion that the FDC cosponsor the “Race Against Racism” event, and all members voted in favor.

Chair Webb stated that the FDC can look into whether it can help facilitate the permit process.

D. Shockley asked A. Harrington about the start time, fee, and distance of the race. A. Harrington replied that there is a 5 kilometer loop south of Airport Way and an additional 5 kilometer loop on the north side of Airport Way. He stated that the race will start at 11 a.m. at the JP Jones Center and will end at the same location. He shared that the fee has not yet been set, but it will likely be ~\$30. He stated that proceeds will go to the NAACP Scholarship Fund.

W. Tisland expressed interest in volunteering for the event. **Chair Webb** thanked A. Harrington for attending the meeting and sharing about the event. **R. Britton** asked whether there was any help needed on the race committee, and A. Harrington indicated that they would be delighted to have more help on the committee. **Chair Webb** asked A. Harrington to send his contact information to the City Clerk.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Webb spoke briefly to the FDC’s struggle in gaining a quorum for meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Clerk Snider stated that J. Rogers reminds the group each year of the need for an Open Meetings Act (OMA) presentation. She introduced City Attorney Tom Chard who led a 25-minute presentation on the OMA.

J. Rogers commented on the importance of understanding the OMA. **R. Britton** added that the presentation was informative and he learned some things he did not know.

D. Shockley questioned whether there are any current efforts in the state legislature to update the OMA. Attorney Chard stated that he is not aware of any current, specific efforts.

- b) Human Library

Chair Webb stated that the presenter she had scheduled to speak about this item was unable to attend the meeting, and she requested that the item be postponed to the next meeting.

FDC MEMBERS' COMMENTS

D. Shockley stated that she recently saw former FDC member Shirley Lee and mentioned that she was co-chair of the FDC. She stated that she would follow up with S. Lee to see if there were some issues that she would like the FDC to address.

R. Britton suggested reaching out to some of the other diversity committees in Fairbanks to discuss how they can join forces.

R. Britton left the meeting at 6:30 p.m., and a quorum was lost.


J. Rogers expressed appreciation for everyone who attended the meeting.

MEETING DATES

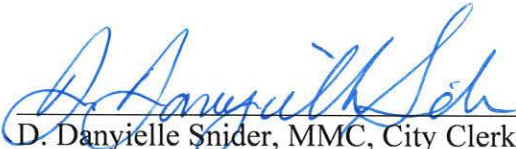
- a) Next Regular Meeting Date, May 14, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.



Juanita Webb, Chair



D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Transcribed by: DS