



**City of Davis**  
**Human Relations Commission**  
**City Hall Conference Room, 23 Russell Blvd. Davis CA 95616**  
**Thursday, April 27, 2023**  
**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order & Roll Call**

*Chair Mvondo called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.*

*Commissioners present: Kevin Baker, Connor Gorman (6:40), Robin Muhammad, NJ Mvondo (Chair), Edgar Wong-Chen*

*Ex-Officios present: Kate Snow (6:46), Leanne Friedman*

*Commissioners absent: Jordan Varney, Angela Willson*

*Council Liaisons present: Gloria Partida*

*Others present: City of Davis staff - Carrie Dyer, Rachel Hartsough*

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*Muhammad moved with second by Baker approval of the agenda as presented.*

*The motion passed as follows:*

*AYE: Baker, Muhammad, Mvondo, Wong-Chen*

*NOES: None*

*ABSTAIN: None*

*ABSENT: Gorman, Varney, Willson*

**3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners and Liaisons**

- Hartsough has public art maps available*
- The Council has determined that Commission meetings will be filmed and uploaded for viewing after the meeting, beginning in May*
- May 1<sup>st</sup> begins Asian Pacific Heritage Month*
  - Elk Grove having festival on May 6*
- Encourage to look at Davis Dirt to see the local events happening*
- Picnic in the Park is starting again*
- April 28 6:00-8:00 event at Tana – Poet Laureates will be in attendance*
- May 1<sup>st</sup> is May Day – International Workers Day to celebrate workers*
- Yolo County Climate Action has committee is doing outreach about the CAAP. Goal is to engage with people and hearing concerns.*
- DJUSD in process of hiring Ethnic Studies Coordinator*
- DJUSD continues to support transgender students.*
- DJUSD has three students that have been invited to represent as a commission student liaison. One regular and two alternates.*
- Davis Phoenix Coalition is bringing a play, called Red Alter to Davis on May 19<sup>th</sup>.*

**4. Public Comment**

*Colin Walsh – Speaking on behalf of himself. The Tree Commission has been working on the Urban Forest Management Plan. In the plan there is a history of*

*Davis with some omissions of the contributions of the Indigenous people. Staff worked to include the information.*

## **5. Consent Calendar (6:55)**

### **A. March 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

*Baker moved with second by Muhammad approval of the consent calendar as presented. The motion passed as follows:*

*AYE: Baker, Gorman, Muhammad, Mvondo, Wong-Chen*

*NOES: None*

*ABSTAIN: None*

*ABSENT: Varney, Willson*

## **6. Regular Items (7:00)**

### **A. Public Forum on Recent Hate Incidents in the Davis Community**

*The Human Relations Commission provided an opportunity to discuss and receive public input on recent hate incidents in the Davis community.*

- Anti-trans people continue to attend the DJUSD board meetings*
- In Sacramento a Drag Queen story time was attacked by a group of fascist people back. There was a large support network in attendance.*
- At the last City Council meeting, there was some conflict during public comment regarding trans rights. Concern about how youth are being confronted. Public comment should be a safe space for people to share their views.*
- Incidents aren't independent things and we need to be aware of them.*
- DaVinci students prepared a walk out demonstration in support of trans people.*
- Civic Arts Commission received a proposal to paint the tunnels as a form of graffiti abatement.*

#### **Public Comment:**

*Colin Walsh – Student that spoke at Council meeting was there to speak on behalf of CAAP and stepped in to support trans people.*

### **B. Frog Totem Public Art Installation**

*The Commission received an informational staff report regarding the selection of the public art piece, titled Frog Totem and were asked to provide feedback regarding the Civic Arts Commission's artwork selection and protocol.*

*The Civic Arts Commission is working on creating a protocol that can be referred to for future pieces of public art, that will guide the selection process.*

*Commissioner Comments:*

- Trying to figure out what the concern about this particular installation is*
- Consideration to bring future art installations through the HRC as part of the review process for public art pieces.*

- *Commission tasked with providing feedback for the public art process moving forward.*
- *The Civic Arts Commission will be reviewing the protocol at a future meeting and invites the HRC to weigh in.*
- *Include review of cross-cultural influences, intentionality, cultural appropriation*
- *The HRC could be included in future discussions regarding art selection content and process. Potentially a trigger clause to see if other commissions, experts, etc. could be consulted.*
- *Utilize University resources could be helpful.*
- *The name totem has concerned folks. Important to remember that the word totem can be used in a variety of ways.*
- *Include when relevant including artists of particular cultures to participate*
- *Consider including a plaque*

**Public Comment:**

*Colin Walsh – Background in art – first became aware of appropriation in the 80s. Much has changed over time and reflection on past works. Asked for more consideration and glad that Council and the HRC is spending time on it. Worth talking to tribes who create totem polls to ask to review. Seeking outside input is the right instinct. Utilizing local artists should be considered. Consider more context and plaque that goes with piece.*

**C. Davis, California Municipal Code, Chapter 10, Civil Rights Review**

*The Commission put together a subcommittee to review chapter 10 of the Davis, California Municipal Code, titled Civil Rights to make recommendations for potential updates to the City Clerk and City Council.*

*Public Comment:*

*None*

*Muhammad moved with a second by Wong-Chen to create a subcommittee of Baker, Muhammad and Mvondo for review of the chapter 10 of the municipal code, as it pertains to Civil Rights. Motion passed as follows:*

*AYE: Baker, Gorman, Muhammad, Mvondo, Wong-Chen*

*NOES: None*

*ABSTAIN: None*

*ABSENT: Varney, Willson*

**D. Thong Hy Huynh Recommendation Update**

*The subcommittee assigned to reviewing the nominations and recommending the Thong Hy Huynh award recipients provided an overview of the selection process and results. The City Council will be receiving the recommendations at the City Council meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Commission will discuss and evaluate the new categories and process at a future meeting.*

*40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award – consider how to include into the council ceremony and incorporate recipients into something at the Thong Hy Huynh garden.*

*Public Comment:*

*None*

## **E. Cesar Chavez Celebration Recap**

*The subcommittee assigned to planning the annual Cesar Chavez Celebration lead the discussion, recapping the event that was held on April 22.*

- Overall smooth event*
- Will include more performances next year, alternating between speakers*
- Theme worked well*
- Consider key note speakers and workshops in future years*
- Consider ways to get people to engage with resource tables – maybe a passport with incentive*
- Craft activities went well*
- Identify and partner with other organizations that can assist*

*Public Comment:*

*None*

## **F. Committee Updates**

Committees will provide updates as needed

- Anti-Hate Subcommittee (Gorman, Mvondo, Wong-Chen)*
  - No Updates*
- UC Davis Connection (Gorman, Wong-Chen,)*
  - No Updates*
- Community Calendar (Mvondo, Villalobos, Wong-Chen)*
  - No Updates*
- Land Acknowledgment (Snow, Varney)*
  - No updates*

## **7. Future Agenda Items/Long Range Calendar**

- Work Plan Review (May)*
- Appointment to Campus Council on Community and Diversity (May)*
- Hate Free Together*
- Subcommittee Review (May)*
- DJUSD student liaison (May) – Commission Announcements*
- Land Acknowledgment (June)*
- Disability Justice (June)*
- Thong Hy Huynh Review (June)*
- Free Speech*
- Media Hate*

- Healing Arts Project
- Multi-culturalism event for youth in Davis
- Look into housing language to see if it includes non-discrimination
- Critical Race Theory/Ethnic Studies Counter Narrative
- Interactions with other commissions
- Discuss Commission outreach

## **8. Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 8:42*