



City of Davis
Human Relations Commission Minutes
Thursday, October 28, 2021
6:30 P.M.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 6:35

Commission Members Present: Sheila Allen (Chair), Lizelle Festejo Hsu, NJ Mvondo, Helen Roland, Edgar Wong-Chen, Angela Willson (6:52)

Commission Members Absent: Judith Plank (Vice Chair), Jordan Varney (alternate)

Others Present: Kate Snow (DJUSD ex officio), Alistair Coate (ASUCD ex officio) (7:26)

Council Liaisons Present: None

Staff: Carrie Dyer, Management Analyst, City Manager's Office

2. Approval of Agenda

Wong- Chen moved and Roland seconded approval of the agenda as presented.

Motion passed as follows:

AYES: Allen, Festejo Hsu, Mvondo, Roland, Wong-Chen

NOES: None

ABSENT: Plank, Willson, Varney

ABSTAIN: None

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners and Liaisons

- Dyer – January 11, joint HRC/CC meeting*
- Snow – DJUSD Board will take up resolution to have Land Acknowledgment for DJUSD and in conversation with Tribe to develop land acknowledgement particular to the school district, Recommendation to board for Ethnic Studies curriculum, Native American Education program is in development, Native garden being planted at DaVinci high school.*
- Wong-Chen – Native American Heritage Month*
- Allen – CDC approved dose for vaccine for 5 – 11 year olds*

4. Public Comment

Connor Gorman – University recommendations for public safety “watered down” and group of people are not satisfied. More radical demands than campus put forward. Campus Police Accountability Board does not have as much authority. UCD actions don’t match rhetoric.

5. Consent Calendar

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Festejo Hsu moves to approve the consent calendar with second by Roland. Motion passed as follows:

AYES: Allen, Festejo Hsu, Mvondo, Roland, Wong-Chen, Willson

NOES: None

ABSENT: Plank, Varney

ABSTAIN: None

6. Regular Items (7:00)

A. Ethnic Studies in Schools

Commissioner Mvondo and Ex-Officio Snow provided the commission with an update on Ethnic Studies in schools. There is a recommendation to school board for Ethnic Studies on November 4 that will have 7 or 8 recommendations for the board to consider.

Public Comment:

Connor Gorman – Supports independent Ethnic Studies courses, likes incorporating ideas into other classes as well. Supports incorporating Palestinian perspective.

Mvondo moves with second by Wong-Chen to have the Human Relations Commission write a letter of support for Ethnic Studies in schools to be read by a commissioner at the November 4 DJUSD school board meeting. Motion passes as follows:

AYES: Allen, Festejo Hsu, Mvondo, Roland, Wong-Chen, Willson

NOES: None

ABSENT: Plank, Varney

ABSTAIN: None

Commissioner Comments:

Statement – important to have in schools and support school board going forward, as commission sees this as important part of citizen education for city.

NJ will draft letter of support and Angela will edit. NJ will be representative.

Staff will ask Clerk's office if this motion needs to go the Council for approval, prior to taking action.

B. Martin Luther King Celebration

The Commission continued planning for the annual Martin Luther King Celebration to be held in January 2022.

Comments/Ideas

- Waiting to see if EOC approves in person event*

- *Dzokerayi is lead of Parents of African American children's group*
- *Black gospel group on campus – joy of healing*
- *Check in with Mikael Villalobos*
- *Step group*
- *How closely the labor movement was tied into the movement – movement took working class people to be involved.*
- *Include people who have made that legacy happen*
- *Freedom Singers – connection to what was happening then*

C. Responding to Current Social Climate Issues

The Commission discussed ways the HRC can respond to current social climate issues.

- *Suggestion to bring up during joint meeting as a topic – ask Council how to be responsive, what can you do within scope.*
- *Language or procedure to follow to support key events?*

D. November/December Meeting Date

Due to the regular Commission meetings falling on holidays in November and December, the Commission determined to have the next meeting on November 18 and to not hold a meeting in December.

Public Comment:

Connor Gorman- Two commissioners not here and ask their availability

E. Ad-Hoc Committee Updates

Committees provide updates as needed

- *Asian American & Pacific Islander Outreach (Festejo Hsu, Mvondo, Wong-Chen) – will be coordinating meeting in next week or two, Anti-Racism book event with UCD happening next year.*
- *Local Voices Project (Mvondo, Varney, Willson) – Survey development happening.*
- *Commission Topic Inventory (Roland) – No update, Dyer working on getting info for Roland.*
- *UC Davis Connection (Allen, Coate, Wong-Chen) – Met with ASUCD president and Vice President about student involvement on commission. Update on appointment process on CCC&D. How to further engage student positions on commissions.*
- *Event Sponsor Process (Allen, Festejo Hsu, Wong-Chen) – No update*
- *Community Calendar (Festejo Hsu, Mvondo, Villalobos, Wong-Chen) – Combining events on campus, in City, community events.*
- *Land Acknowledgment (Allen, Coate, Snow, Varney) – will do background research and bring to joint City Council/HRC meeting*

Public Comment:

Connor Gorman – Emphasize various union and worker groups on campus and being aware of labor organizing going on campus.

7. Future Agenda Items/Long Range Calendar

- *Event planning for future*
- *Multi-culturalism event for youth in Davis*
- *Look into housing language to see if it includes non-discrimination*
- *HRC role in providing feedback on statues, murals, etc.*
- *Joint CC/HRC meeting (November)*
- *Cesar Chavez event (January)*
- *Huynh Awards (January)*

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.