



**City of Davis
Human Relations Commission Minutes
Thursday, November 18 2021**

Call to Order & Roll Call

Call to Order:

Vice Chair Plank called the meeting to order at 6:37pm.

Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Lizelle Festejo-Hsu, Judith Plank (Vice Chair), Jordan Varney (Alternate), Edgar Wong-Chen, Leanne Friedman (ex officio), Alistair Coate (ex officio)

Commissioners absent: Sheila Allen (Chair), NJ Mvondo, Helen Roland, Angela Willson

Others present: Carrie Dyer, Kelly Stachowicz

1. Approval of Agenda

Festejo-Hsu moved approval of the agenda, with a second by Wong-Chen. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Festejo-Hsu, Plank, Varney, Wong-Chen

NOES: None

ABSENT: Allen, Mvondo, Roland, Willson

2. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners and Liaisons

No announcements

3. Public Comment

No public comment

4. Consent Calendar

A. October 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Festejo-Hsu moved approval of the consent calendar, with a second by Varney. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Festejo-Hsu, Plank, Varney, Wong-Chen

NOES: None

ABSENT: Allen, Mvondo, Roland, Willson

5. Regular Items

A. Joint Human Relations Commission and City Council Meeting Preparation

The Commission began to prepare for the upcoming joint meeting with the City Council on January 11.

Dyer: explained details about the joint discussion on January 11, 2022 and reviewed document from City Clerk about format. Discussion will begin at 5:30pm and generally lasts until 6:30pm. Reminded commission that one topic of interest has been ways that the commission can address current events and still abide by the Brown Act.

Wong Chen asked who presents and how organize thoughts? How share information with Chair if Chair presents

Stachowicz provided overview of how joint discussions generally work. Suggested that commission can determine items to discuss this evening or form a subcommittee to meet with chair to figure out details for presentation.

Plank and Wong Chen think subcommittee would be helpful to meet with Chair.

Public Comment: None

Plank moved to form a subcommittee (Plank, Mvondo, Allen) to prepare for the joint discussion. Wong Chen seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Festejo-Hsu, Plank, Varney, Wong-Chen

NOES: None

ABSENT: Allen, Mvondo, Roland, Willson

Festejo-Hsu suggested to have other subcommittees send information for the presentation to staff.

B. Martin Luther King Celebration

The commission continued discussion on plans for the annual event.

Dyer: Emergency Operations Center has approved in-person event at Vets Memorial Theater. Will march to Solidarity Space.

Plank: Deborah Taylor is goddaughter of Ralph Abernathy, civil rights leader. Could talk about the stories she has heard about civil rights efforts. Commission consensus that this would be positive. Plank will send information to Dyer.

Festejo-Hsu: will there be a theme? Had previously discussed theme of healing.

Coate: did research on racial awareness and diversity events. Would like to act as an outreach liaison for committee.

Public Comment: None

Festejo-Hsu moved, with a second by Plank, to form a subcommittee of Festejo-Hsu, Mvondo, Coate (ex officio) to plan for MLK Day. The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Festejo-Hsu, Plank, Varney, Wong-Chen

NOES: None

ABSENT: Allen, Mvondo, Roland, Willson

Friedman: Would like to have Freedom Singers close out the event and she will be the liaison to ask them to perform.

C. Interactive Healing Arts Project

This item will be moved to the January meeting.

D. Ad-Hoc Committee Updates

Committees will provide updates as needed

- Asian American & Pacific Islander Outreach (Festejo Hsu, Mvondo, Wong-Chen) – Festejo Hsu reported that group was considering compiling a report around hate crimes that have happened in Davis with measureable targets. Would require collaboration with both police departments. One thought is hosting one anti-racist workshop each year. Wong Chen interested in feedback from commission about expanding the role from AAPI to general hate crimes.
Dyer asked if there was a change to the subcommittee to focus on hate crimes and community workshop. Commission concurred.*
- Local Voices Project (Mvondo, Varney, Willson) – Varney reported that flyer for community will be ready soon. Website forthcoming. Data collection will begin after.*
- Commission Topic Inventory (Roland) – No report*
- UC Davis Connection (Allen, Coate, Wong-Chen) – Coate compiled and shared information regarding Covid-19 on campus. Will continue to look into how this related to diversity and equity. UC Davis in the top 50 for diversity rankings for employment. There is just as much emphasis now on inclusion as there was pre-pandemic. Dyer: Villalobos will send formal letter of request to the City Council for a City Human Relations appointment to Campus Council on Diversity and Inclusion.*
- Event Sponsor Process (Allen, Festejo Hsu, Wong-Chen) – No update*
- Community Calendar (Festejo Hsu, Mvondo, Villalobos ex off, Wong-Chen) – Wong Chen hoping a city liaison from above can help with this effort.*
- Land Acknowledgment (Allen, Coate, Snow, Varney) – Dyer: group was going to do some research and possibly bring something to the City Council for the joint discussion.*

Public Comment:

Alan Hirsch: Afraid that we are not addressing hate in the community. Fox News is spreading hate. There are hate groups in the community. Put this on the next agenda. Work with the interfaith community. Hate is not acceptable in Davis.

6. Future Agenda Items/Long Range Calendar

Commission noted the following long range items:

- *Event planning for future*
- *Multi-culturalism event for youth in Davis (Wong-Chen)*
- *Look into housing language to see if it includes non-discrimination*
- *HRC role in providing feedback on statues, murals, etc. (Willson)*
- *Thong Hy Huynh Award*
- *Chair/Vice Chair Election*

Festejo Hsu: would be helpful to add name next to item. Dyer will put in minutes for future.

Public Comment:

Alan Hirsch: Please add media hate in the community.

Wong-Chen: Would like to pair critical race theory/ethnic studies counter-narrative and media hate as a future agenda item.

Plank: prefers two separate items.

Festejo Hsu can think about how to position it in the existing subcommittee (on hate crimes)

Commission consensus to add items to future agendas.

7. Adjourn (8:30)

Plank adjourned meeting at 7:46pm