



**City of Davis
Human Relations Commission Minutes
Thursday, January 27 2022**

Call to Order & Roll Call

Call to Order:

Vice Chair Plank called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Lizelle Festejo-Hsu, NJ Mvondo, Judith Plank (Vice Chair), Jordan Varney, Edgar Wong-Chen, Angela Willson

Ex-Officios present: Leanne Friedman (Faith Based), Alistair Coate (ASUCD), Mikael Villabos (UCD), Kate Snow (DJUSD)

Commissioners absent: Sheila Allen (Chair),

Others present: Carrie Dyer, Zoe Mirabile, Mayor Partida

Approval of Agenda

Willson moved approval of the agenda with a second by Festejo Hsu. Motion passed by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Allen

Brief Announcements:

Jordan Varney –UCD did study on policing and community response. The Social Services Commission encouraged them to have secondary study around marginalized voices.

NJ Mvondo – Juneteenth preparation are underway for June 5 2022

NJ Mvondo- February Black History Month, will send out information on events

Edgar Wong-Chen – Tuesday is Lunar New Year - Year of the Tiger

Mayor Partida – Interested in learning more about UCD survey and breakout responses

Public Comment

Plank moves with second by Willson for each speaker to have up to 6 minutes.

Motion passes as follows:

AYES: Festejo Hsu, Mvondo, Plank, Wong-Chen, Willson

NOES: None

ABSENT: Allen

ABSTAIN: Varney

Hirsch – Today is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Disappointed to not see the topic of Media Hate on the agenda. Encourages speaking out and modeling resistance on the normalization of hate, especially with the media. Push back on status quo and need sense of urgency.

Consent Calendar

A. November 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Allen

Abstain: Willson

Regular Items (7:00)

A. Recap of the Joint Human Relations Commission and City Council Meeting

The Commission had a joint meeting with the City Council on January 11. They recapped the discussion and identified and prioritized work tasks.

Public Comment –

Hirsch encourage council to speak out on media hate

B. Report of the Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute

The Commission discussed the 2022 virtual Martin Luther King Jr. virtual tribute, what was successful and ways that could be improved for future virtual events.

- Liked having every hour throughout the day*
- Enjoyed poet laureates and broken up throughout day*
- Consider hosting event outside in future*
- Able to share with online network – shared in East Coast*
- Consider outdoor in Central Park and hybrid to share online to reach larger audience*
- In future – post snippet of videos with image of speaker with You Tube link*
- Encourages having subcommittee work on in future years*

Public Comment:

Hirsch- Suggest to have merchants opportunity to participate, no publicity in Davis Enterprise despite City press release, ask Enterprise to reflect values of community

Gorman - Remember larger structural issues that MLK was fighting against. Supports hybrid options moving forward.

C. Annual Thong Hy Huynh Awards

The Commission reviewed the time line and categories for the 2022 Thong Hy Huynh award nomination period.

Commissioner Comments:

- *How many have been nominated in the past*
- *More robust publicity*
- *Change framework to highlight what people have done to receive award and then reason for award*
- *More effective outreach*
- *Taking tragic moment in our history and turned into impactful and legacy and honor*
- *Highlight past recipients – chance to remember their contribution*
- *Having commissioner sit on campus and community council would be good opportunity to highlight*

Public Comment:

Alan Hirsch – Add to form relationship to city of Davis, don't deflate award by giving to whoever was nominated

Mvondo moves with second by Wong-Chen to move forward with Thong Hy Huynh categories and timeline as proposed. Motion passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Allen

D. Committee Updates

Committees provided updates as needed

- *Asian American & Pacific Islander Outreach (Festejo Hsu, Mvondo, Wong-Chen) – Change name to Anti Hate Committee*

The subcommittee provided a presentation on anti-Asian hate crimes and statistics. They encouraged the commission to reflect on what statistic surprised them the most and to think about what the HRC can do to address this happening in our community.

Surprised:

- *Spitting*
- *Number of young children reporting hate crimes/activities*
- *Stress on Asian communities and people*
- *Mental health reporting reminds of us how important mental health resources and access exists*
- *Helpful to have data around age range of individuals*

What can we do as HRC to address community?

- *Find out what other communities have done to make marginalized community members feel safer and be safer?*
- *Outreach with survey to Davis*
- *Importance of outreach for all people of all ages and communities*
- *Safe spaces on k-12 campuses. Learn to understand how to make students feel more safe*
- *Intergenerational – how to build anti hate/pro love community*

- *Send messages to let people know they are accepted. Could Senior Center outreach assist with this – check in's, ask the question if they feel safe*
 - *Teach people to be Upstanders.*
- *Local Voices Project (Mvondo, Varney, Willson)*
The subcommittee provided an update presentation on the current work of the Local Voices Project
 - *Ready to launch into data collection*
 - *Shared drafts of outreach flyers, survey and informational materials**Commissioner Comments:*
 - *Commissioners appreciate work of LVP*
 - *Applauds that it is created in both English and Spanish*
 - *For other projects, suggests reaching out for translation*
 - *Who/How distribution? List has been collected of community based organizations*
 - *Way to let people know that it is for all interactions and for all people?*
 - *Reminder that Willson is on Community Advisory Board for Police Department and can bring information forward to them*
- *Commission Topic Inventory (Roland) – Committee ended*
 - *UC Davis Connection (Allen, Coate, Wong-Chen) –*
Organizing a project coordinating with different campus groups who are involved in social issues to establish rapport, getting information to talk about them having them present to bridge the gap. Talk about issues that students are going through on campus or on City.
 - *Event Sponsor Process (Allen, Festejo Hsu, Wong-Chen) – No update*
 - *Community Calendar (Festejo Hsu, Mvondo, Villalobos, Wong-Chen) –*
Working with UCD student, subcommittee hasn't been able to work as a group yet. Considering community calendar to be interactive
 - *Land Acknowledgment (Allen, Coate, Snow, Varney) – No update*

Public Comment:

Gorman – UC Davis Connection – Social Services group doing outreach to groups and communities on campus. Appreciates outreach to student centered groups. Might consider clubs and organizations and collaboration with UC Davis workers and unions. Statewide virtual town hall tomorrow around UC Covid response and long term options – hybrid.

Hirsch – Wishes to have presentations in advance. Wishes comments were not at the end. Prevention is better than treatment. What is source of violence? Media. Talking to Strangers is a wonderful book to read.

E. 2022 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Commission elected a chair and vice chair for 2022

Plank nominates NJ Mvondo for Chair and is seconded by Wong-Chen. Motion passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Allen

*Festejo-Hsu nominates Wong-Chen with second by Willson. Wong-Chen declines
Wong-Chen nominates Festejo-Hsu as vice chair with second by Plank. Festejo
Hsu defers.*

Public Comment:

Gorman – Supports NJ for chair. Would like to have public comment before any votes

Willson moves for Plank as Vice Chair with second by Wong-Chen. Motion passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Allen

Future Agenda Items/Long Range Calendar

- *Move March meeting to March 31*
- *Cesar Chavez event (February)*
- *Event planning for future*
- *Healing Arts Project (can be flexible on timing 5 – 7 minutes) – March*
- *Huynh - March*
- *Multi-culturalism event for youth in Davis – March*
- *Look into housing language to see if it includes non-discrimination*
- *HRC role in providing feedback on statues, murals, etc. (Willson)*
- *Critical Race Theory/Ethnic Studies Counter Narrative (Future month) – How as a community we might respond to inflammatory articles posted on websites (Snow)
How City and Schools can work together*
- *Media Hate (February) – What is actual topic and question of the commission.*
- *Student group presentations*

Public Comment:

Alan Hirsch – Roland's resignation letter has important things to share. Offers to make presentation on Media Hate.

Adjourn

Plank adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.