



City of Davis
Human Relations Commission Minutes
Thursday, March 31, 2022
6:30 P.M.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call (6:30)

Chair Mvondo called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Commissioners present: Lizelle Festejo-Hsu (left at 7:30), NJ Mvondo (Chair), Judith Plank (left at 8:09)(Vice Chair), Jordan Varney, Angela Willson, Edgar Wong-Chen (6:40)

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

Commissioners absent: None

Others present: Carrie Dyer, Kelly Stachowicz

2. Approval of Agenda (6:31)

Willson moved to approve the agenda with second by Festejo-Hsu

Approved as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Absent: Wong-Chen

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners and Liaisons (6:35)

Dyer – Cesar Chavez Celebration

Snow – April 11, DJUSD will be lifting indoor mask mandate

DJUSD will be presenting to Social Services Commission on Mental Health activities happenings

Past Board of Education meeting, was disrupted by Sacramento Chapter of Proud Boys

Lots of positive things happening

Coate – Collaborating with UCD groups about presenting to the HRC and will add to long range calendar

Mvondo – Check out UCD Cross Cultural Center calendar for many events happening this spring.

Festejo-Hsu – Today is Transgender Day of Visibility

4. Public Comment (6:40)

Bart Wise – Concern with rising tide of fascism in our country. Ask to HRC to begin to address this in media and local institutions. Requires confronting directly. Urge commission to think more radically.

Alan Hirsch – Ask HRC to discuss Anti-Semitism. Zoom meetings have gone on too long. Only 7% of communication is words. Face to face communication is important. Need to see people’s faces. Reconnect as human beings is civility.

Connor Gorman – Will be a commissioner effective the April meeting. Concurs that rising fascism is an issue for the HRC to discuss. Would like HRC to discuss ways meetings are conducted. Favors hybrid meetings. April 1 will be action at UCD for discussing raises.

5. Consent Calendar (6:45)

A. February 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Willson moves with second by Plank approval of the minutes as presented:

Motion passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Absent: None

6. Regular Items (6:50)

A. Thong Hy Huynh Award Nominations Review

The Commission reviewed nominations for the annual Thong Hy Huynh award and made recipient recommendations to the City Council.

Commissioner Comments:

Suggestion to move Natalia Baltazar to Civil Rights Advocacy

Suggestion to move Anne Kjemtrup to Civil Rights Advocacy

Suggestion for Catherine Bernstein for Public Servant of the Year

Suggestion for Natalia for lifetime

Affirms moving Anne to Civil Rights advocacy

Suggestion for Anne for lifetime

Suggestion for Natalia and Catherine for Public Servant of the year

Suggestion to keep Anne in lifetime and moving Natalia for Civil Rights Adcovcay

Suggestion for Anne as lifetime, Max as YH, Natatlia as Civil, Covid, for excellence and Catherine Public Servant

Public Comment:

Connor Gorman – Concurs that Yolo Facebook Group on Covid has done great work that has served the community.

Varney moves with second by Willson to recommend the following nominations to the City Council for ratification:

Lifetime Achievement: Anne Kjemtrup
Young Humanitarian – Max Maurantonio
Civil Rights Advocacy – Natalia Baltazar
Excellence in Community Involvement – COVID Yolo Community Response
Facebook Group, Davis Food Coop, Steve Streeter
Public Servant of the Year – Catherine Bernstein

Passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Absent: Festejo-Hsu

B. Principles of Civility for City Council, City Commissions, and Other Legislative Bodies Authorized and Governed by the City Council

The Commission reviewed an informational staff report regarding Principles of Civility and provided input.

Stachowicz provided background on the Principals of Civility development. The intent is to acknowledge all view points and sides. Goal is have healthy, civil discourse and listen and speak up in a way that is not threatening or bullying.

Commissioner Comments:

- Document could speak to open debate and that it is encouraged and understanding of different communication styles.*
- Worrisome that civility is deeply rooted in specific culture*
- Promote productive and respectful disagreement*
- Not sure how ideas get enforced in community meetings, etc.*
- Clarification that document is for how Council interacts with public and if extended would apply to commission. Is not intended for entire community.*
- Definition of Civility needs to change – this document can be a good place to address what it currently means and what is striving for – Keeping community safe in a new and evolving way to hear voices that have not been heard in the past.*

Public Comment:

- Bart Wise – Agrees with what has been said, but would like to include is that the contents of speech is also subject to interpretation. To vigorously speak up could be understood as being uncivil. However, it is needed to make changes.*
- Connor Gorman – Glad that HRC is having this as regular item. The focus is on the interpersonal rather than the structural. The structural level is*

important as well. Suggestion to explicitly mention interpretation of civility is different. Power structures, etc. effect people differently.

C. Media & The Role of the Human Relations Commission

The Commission discussed stories and news headlines as portrayed by various media outlets and how they may add to the stress many are already under.

The subcommittee provided an update on their discussion and questions they determined that the commission might want to address. What is the role of the commission? What is the role of the City? What are the limitations? Want to address pro-actively, but how do we act on it? What are specific states that the commission can take to address these issues.

Willson moves with second by Wong-Chen to further the conversation at next meeting. Motion passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Absent: Festejo-Hsu

D. Annual Cesar Chavez Celebration Update

The Commission received an update for the annual Cesar Chavez Celebration to be held on Saturday, April 2.

E. Committee Updates

Committees provided updates as needed

- Anti-Hate Subcommittee (Festejo Hsu, Mvondo, Wong-Chen)
 - No Update**
- Local Voices Project (Mvondo, Varney, Willson)
 - Finalizing material, reaching out to partners**
- UC Davis Connection (Coate, Wong-Chen,)
 - Arranging for UCD to come and share presentations to work they are doing. Women's Resource Center will hopefully speak at next meeting.
 - § Wants to understand if they offer resources for the community*
 - § What are current critical issues the groups see with the people they are working with and for*
 - § Put item at top of agenda with designated amount of time. 5 - 10 minutes for presentation and 10-20 for questions.***
- Event Sponsor Process (Festejo Hsu, Wong-Chen)
 - No Update**
- Community Calendar (Festejo Hsu, Mvondo, Villalobos, Wong-Chen)
 - No Update**

- *Land Acknowledgment (Coate, Snow, Varney)*
 - *No Update*

7. Future Agenda Items/Long Range Calendar

- *Event planning for future*
- *Healing Arts Project*
- *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.*
- *Critical Race Theory/Ethnic Studies Counter Narrative*
- *Continue Media Hate (April)*
- *Speakers (Women's Resource Center – April)*
- *Interactions with other commissions*
- *Discuss Commission outreach*

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.