



City of Davis
Human Relations Commission
Minutes
Thursday, August 22, 2024

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Baker called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Commissioners present: Felix Alvarez, Kevin Baker (Chair), Connor Gorman (Vice Chair), Amir Kol, Leonie Pickett, Deema Tamimi, Edgar Wong-Chen
Ex-Officios present: Daniel Mojica, Kate Snow, Mikael Villalobos
Commissioners absent: Ellie Kaplan (Alternate)
Council Liaisons present: Councilmember Partida
Others present: City of Davis staff –Carrie Dyer, Jenny Tan

2. Approval of Agenda

Pickett moved with second by Tamimi approval of the agenda with a notation to change the language on item D to may form a subcommittee. Motion passed as follows:

AYES: Alvarez, Baker, Gorman, Pickett, Kol, Tamimi, Wong-Chen

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

3. Brief Announcements

- Thank you to Ashish Lama, past DJUSD Student Ex-Officio*
- 500 DJUSD staff attended full day training on mitigating bias*

4. Public Comment

- Lisa Baumeister – Concern about name of Hate Free Together – Puts aggressive stance first and could create a certain presence. Doesn't think it will benefit effort.*
- Hiram Jackson – Here on Measure T campaign in regards to building a library in South Davis. \$49 parcel tax is on ballot to make operations of library possible. 2/3 passing is required.*
- Alan Hirsch – Suggest that the commission meets in a room with a round table so people can see each other. Believes that fear rather than hate is driving crimes. Address fear, rather than hate.*
- Angela Mayho – City has fair housing complaint form and has submitted forms to City staff. Response contained malicious statements. Provided documentation to staff.*

5. Consent Calendar

- A. June 27 Meeting Minutes**
- B. August 14 Special Meeting Minutes**

Wong – Chen moved with second by Alvarez approval of the June 27 minutes as presented with change of tribe to tribes. Motion passed as follows:

AYES: Alvarez, Baker, Gorman, Pickett, Kol, Tamimi, Wong-Chen

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Kol moved with second by Gorman approval of the August 13 minutes as presented. Motion passed as follows:

AYES: Alvarez, Baker, Gorman, Pickett, Kol, Tamimi, Wong-Chen

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

6. Regular Items

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.

- Commission should be aware of increase in antisemitic incidents over the past year.*
- Increasing transphobic incidents happening over the last month.*

Public Comment:

- Alan Hirsch – The world we live in, is defined by the media we consume. Hate incident in south Davis was picked up by local media.*

B. Review of Updated Human Relations Commission Functions and Resolution

The Commission reviewed the updated functions and resolution in preparation for further agenda item discussions.

Commissioner Comments

- Would like clarification on when the Commission can create new events, publications, tasks etc. under the general purview. City Clerk responded that efforts may need to go through Council for review for approval.*

Public Comment:

None

C. Hate Free Together Update and Commission Function Discussion

The Commission received an update from Jenny Tan, Director of Community Engagement, on the Hate Free Together initiative and discussed a new function of the HRC, which is to “serve as the lead commission regarding the city's community engagement component of the Hate Free Together initiative”.

Members of the Executive Committee in attendance:

Jenny Tan, City of Davis

Shelia Allen, Yolo County

Megan Macklin, Director, Campus Climate and Inclusion Initiatives, UCD

Kate Snow, DJUSD

Mikael Villalobos, Associate Vice Chancellor, DEI, Office of Campus Community Relations, UCD

Commissioner Comments:

- *Budgetary question about initial funding and will more be needed moving forward.*
 - *Looking at ways to build funding, grants, etc.*
- *What are the goals of this initiative and how will they be measured?*
 - *Report coming out of artist grant programs will be helpful.*
 - *Building of community network*
 - *Website data can be used*
- *What is the HRC Role?*
 - *Provide feedback*
 - *Go into the community to share information*
 - *Share happenings with HFT*
- *Have link to HRC on the website as a resource*
- *Regular updates to HRC (bi-monthly, quarterly, etc)*
- *Appreciates agility that HFT has to roll things out*
- *Would like HRC to have positive impact and participate in progress in community.*
- *Could member of commission be part of executive committee?*
- *How is initiative working to bring awareness to and reduce harm around issues?*
- *Is there an opportunity to report directly to HFT, rather than police and then how those can be addressed? Can patterns be tracked, separate from law enforcement?*
- *HRC can use HFT as an avenue to get out into the community.*
- *Sending trusted messengers into community groups is helpful and lead to part of the success of Healthy Davis Together.*
- *Suggest engagement at current events that HRC already hosts.*

Public Comment:

- *Reem – Add standing hrc item to HFT website resources, website heading for resources title change from antisemitism resources to just resources.*
- *How do decisions get made on what information is posted on HFT website? Example is a film announcement was posted and appeared to be removed.*
- *Alan Hirsh – Believes that HFT should be a bottom up initiative rather than top down. Example is Love Thy Neighbor signs throughout community. Use words other than hate.*

Due to time constraints, Pickett moves with second by Wong-Chen to modify item D to only address the City Holiday Observances subcommittee.

Motion passed as follows:

AYES: Alvarez, Baker, Gorman, Pickett, Kol, Tamimi, Wong-Chen

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

D. Creation of Subcommittees

The Commission created a subcommittee to review City Holiday Observances, specifically the Candlelight Parade and Holiday Tree Lighting event.

Commissioner Comments:

- *Review what already happens*
- *Propose suggestions to add additional inclusive elements*
- *Understand how community experiences Holiday Tree Lighting celebration and how it can be changed to honor all members of the community.*
- *Is committee only going to address Holiday Tree event or other holiday observances as well?*
- *Davis Phoenix Coalition will have skate rink with signs of varying ways that people celebrate winter holidays.*
- *Starting with conversation and understanding from community*

Picket moves with second by Wong-Chen to create a subcommittee to review the annual tree lighting celebration to with members to include Snow, Kol, Pickett, Gorman

Motion passed as follows:

AYES: Alvarez, Baker, Gorman, Pickett, Kol, Tamimi, Wong-Chen

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Public Comment:

- *Alan Hirsh – What is the point of public comment if you make a motion before taking it.*

7. Adjournment

Wong-Chen moves with second by Tamimi to adjourn at 9:04

Motion passed as follows:

AYES: Alvarez, Baker, Gorman, Pickett, Kol, Tamimi, Wong-Chen

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None