



FAIRBANKS DIVERSITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 12, 2021, 5:30 – 7:00 P.M.
HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE AND AT
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA



The **Fairbanks Diversity Council** (FDC) convened at 5:30 p.m. on the above date to conduct a Regular Meeting via Zoom Webinar and at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, with **Vice Chair Shelissa Thomas** (Seat E) presiding (via Zoom) and with the following members in attendance [Z = Zoom; P = In Person]:

Members Present: (Z) Kennita Williams, Seat A (Z) Sara Harriger, Seat K
(Z) Juanita Webb, Seat D (P) Angela Foster-Snow, HR Dir.
(Z) Andrew Aquino, Seat G (Z) June Rogers, Councilmember
(Z) Doug Toelle, Seat J

Members Absent: Robert Dorton, Seat B Vacant, Seat H
Jose Martinez II, Seat C Kelvin Lee, Seat I
Rita Davis, Seat F

Also Present: (P) Rick Sweet, Acting Police Chief (P) D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
(Z) Ron Dupee, Acting Deputy Chief (P) Paul Ewers, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER & READING OF THE FDC MISSION STATEMENT

Vice Chair Thomas called the meeting to order, and Clerk Snider read the FDC Mission Statement into the record.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

FDC members cited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Harriger, seconded by **Mr. Toelle**, moved to APPROVE the Agenda.

Hearing no objection, the Agenda was APPROVED.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS (Limited to 3 Minutes)

Clerk Snider stated that there are no citizens in the Council Chambers. An opportunity was provided for citizens to comment via Zoom, and no citizens wished to provide comments.

MAYOR & CITY STAFF REPORTS

a) Update on Police Chief Hiring Process

Ms. Foster-Snow provided an update to the FDC on the hiring process. She reported that Mayor Matherly decided to open the position externally on January 5, although there were two qualified

internal applicants. She stated the City has received multiple applications from across the country since the position opened the week prior. **Ms. Foster-Snow** reported that she and the Mayor will review applications for minimum qualifications on January 19. She stated that the Mayor has seated all the panelists for the selection committee, but the names of the nine members have not yet been released. She shared that the committee will gather for the first time the week of January 25. She stated that two content area experts, Juneau Police Chief Ed Mercer and Greg Russell with the Alaska Municipal League (AML), will help give guidance to the Mayor, but they will not serve on the committee. **Ms. Foster-Snow** stated she is excited that FDC member Andrew Aquino has agreed to be a part of the committee.

Acting Police Chief Rick Sweet provided an update on training at Fairbanks Police Department (FPD). He shared that the department completed the 3-hour de-escalation, intervention, and force mitigation training, following completion of the implicit bias training. He stated that FPD has begun the 3-hour “Duty to Intervene” class. He shared that the department has taken a step forward with a more local focus on diversity and cultural awareness by contacting Rodney Gaskins about a class on equity and inclusion. AC Sweet stated he also contacted Shirley Lee to ask for assistance in local training and partnerships. He reported that he is including other local law enforcement agencies in his efforts.

Ms. Harriger asked AC Sweet whether the efforts to create partnerships between police and the community was still in the early stages or whether there were some steps in place already. AC Sweet replied that there is a current focus on linking citizens with mental health resources by way of programs such as Crisis Now and Suicide Prevention. He stated that those efforts are in collaboration with the Fairbanks Fire Department and the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center (FECC). He stated that some of those efforts will depend on funding and availability of resources.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a) Regular Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2020

Mr. Aquino, seconded by **Mr. Toelle**, moved to APPROVE the meeting minutes.

Hearing no objections or proposed changes, the minutes were APPROVED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Open Meetings Act (OMA) Overview

City Attorney Paul Ewers gave a PowerPoint Presentation to the FDC on the OMA which covered:

- Purpose and goal of the OMA
- Who is covered under the OMA
- Requirements of the OMA
- Definition of a meeting under the OMA
- Reasonable public notice of meetings
- Serial meetings
- Social gatherings
- Social media

Ms. Rogers emphasized the importance of the OMA and suggested that a presentation on it be given to the FDC no less than once per year.

FDC MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Aquino reminded everyone that the following Monday is Martin Luther King Day, and he mentioned Alaska Civil Rights Day. He stated that there is much progress to be proud of, and efforts will continue into the future. He stated there are tough times currently, but something to celebrate is everyone at the meeting.

Mr. Toelle stated that he runs a tourist business, and he is amazed that he still has tourists during the pandemic. He stated many of them are locals exploring the community. He thanked staff for the presentations given and agreed that the OMA presentation should be given to the FDC every year.

Ms. Harriger thanked staff for the presentations and agreed that the OMA presentation should occur each year. She referenced the FDC's prior work on the Diversity Action Plan (DAP) and stated she looks forward to getting back to work on the Plan. She stated that she would like the FDC to discuss the possibility of using the City's Facebook page on occasion.

MEETING DATES

a) Next Regular Meeting Date, February 9, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Harriger, seconded by **Mr. Aquino**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

Hearing no objection, **Vice Chair Thomas** declared the meeting
ADJOURNED at 6:25 p.m.



Jim Matherly, Mayor/Chair



D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Transcribed by: DS