

DRAFT MINUTES  
JUNEAU HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA  
FEBRUARY 15, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- a. Present: Aidan Key, Emily Mesch, Haifa Sadighi, and Mary Wegner
- b. Absent: N/A
- c. Support: Di Cathcart

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Minutes of the February 1, 2022 Meeting – Approved

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Britt Tonnessen and Heather Parker joined us to talk about the Sponsor Circles program that is focused on helping Afghani families get settled into communities. Sponsor Circle groups are five families who collaborate to provide support, and there are two Sponsor Circles groups in Juneau. One group has applied to host an Afghani family of five in Juneau and their application has been approved, and another group is in the process of applying to host an Afghani family of four in Juneau. The Afghani refugees who have already arrived in Alaska have been re-settled. There are many Afghani refugees in the US who are still needing to be re-settled and thousands are still in Afghanistan waiting to come to the US.

JHRC is meeting with the Human Resources Commission later this month to discuss our letter to the Assembly regarding support for Afghani refugees. Employment, affordable housing, helping people get linked into the system, and processing of documents current needs of the refugees. Could the City have a liaison to work with the Sponsor Circle leads?

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a. Celebrating Black History Month 2023: A Planning Meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 6:00 pm – No one has yet been officially invited to join us, as we plan for Black History Month 2023; however, whether or not we have guests join us we will begin the planning process at this meeting.
- b. Town Hall Planning: - Tabled due to time limitations
  - i. Transgender Town Hall
  - ii. Women’s History Month Town Hall
    - 1. March TBD from 6-7:30 pm
    - 2. ANB/ANS as speakers
    - 3. Note: Angel was to be lead in arranging speakers and was going to offer them either Tuesday or Wednesday in March and see what date works best for them. If they pick Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, then we will hold our JHRC meeting from 5-6 pm.

V. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- a. February 23, 2022 at 6:00 pm  
Celebrating Black History Month 2023: A Planning Meeting
- b. February 28, 2022 at 5:00 pm  
Juneau Human Resources Committee Meeting re: our Afghan Refugee and  
Anti-Semitism Letters to the Assembly
- c. March 1, 2022 at 5:00 pm

VI. ADJOURNMENT: Adjourned at 5:56 pm