

DRAFT MINUTES
JUNEAU HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
FEBRUARY 23, 2022

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm
 - a. Present: Aidan Key, Emily Mesch, Haifa Sadighi, and Mary Wegner
 - b. Absent: N/A
 - c. Support: Di Cathcart

- II. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. Bobby Lewis, Missouri Smyth, Brenda Tyler, and Sheila Degener joined our meeting and were promoted to panelist.
 - b. Bobby's goal is to have February being a celebration of American history and a celebration of the human race.
 - c. Missouri shared Current happenings: Gospel concert in Juneau, Motown presentation, and radio interviews by Black Awareness Association of Juneau. Ideas: City Museum display for the month of February, involve the Juneau teacher's union through their Ed Excellence program to promote relevant books in classrooms around the district, poetry slam with food, show a movie once a week in the theatre on the topic of African American history, and see if one of the theatre groups in town could prepare a play that is performed.
 - d. Brenda shared what the Alaska Black Caucus has been doing in Anchorage, which included a film showing at the Bear Tooth Theatre, encouraging students to read books by Black authors, storytelling such as the history of Fairview, a Kwanza event at the museum that taught about the principles of the seven day holiday and included a journaling classes and book sharing, and highlighting career fields. Events have occurred over Zoom except where in person is critical.
 - e. Sheila suggested a series of moderated community book talks over Zoom during February and connect with the authors, if possible. Explore having the Juneau Public Library feature the eBooks selected.

- III. AGENDA
 - a. Celebrating Black History Month 2023: A Planning Meeting
 - i. Charge from the Juneau Human Rights Commission Charter:
 - 1. Develop educational and informational programs designed to bring about the prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination, including hate crimes.
 - a. Ideas: Coordinate with the Alaska Black Caucus on a movie showing, as well as a Read Across Alaska book selection with the author(s) traveling to a few communities to build discussions around the book(s).
 - 2. Promote harmonious intergroup relations within the City and Borough of Juneau by making connections and enlisting the cooperation of racial, religious and nationality groups, business,

community, labor and governmental organizations, fraternal and benevolent associations, education and other groups concerned with human rights.

3. Examine sources of tension, practices of discrimination, hate crimes, and acts of prejudice in the City and Borough of Juneau.
 4. Advise the Assembly concerning solutions to specific problems of prejudice or discrimination, including hate crimes.
 5. Recommend to the Assembly, action, policies, and legislation to be considered by state and local governments.
- ii. Di reminded us that we are meeting with the Juneau Human Resources Commission on Monday, 2/28 @ 5:30 pm – the meeting is in person in the City Assembly Chambers or via Zoom.
 - iii. Di shared that we are not able to meet on 3/1 due to the Board of Equalization meeting on that day. We will have one meeting in March on the 3/15 and will meet from 5-7 pm.
 - iv. Haifa has arranged for a Zoom session with trainers associated with Restorative Justice Practices that will be held on Tuesday, 3/1 from 2:30-3:30 pm. Mary will attend the Zoom with Haifa.

IV. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- a. February 28, 2022 at 5:30 pm
Juneau Human Resources Committee Meeting re: our Afghan Refugee and Anti-Semitism Letters to the Assembly
- b. March 15, 2022 from 5:00-7:00 pm – Guest Kristen Daniels from CatapultEd re: crowdsourcing

V. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm