



FAIRBANKS DIVERSITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 2025, 5:30 – 7:00 P.M.
HELD VIA [ZOOM WEBINAR](#) AND AT
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA



The **Fairbanks Diversity Council** (FDC) met on the above date to conduct a Regular Meeting via Zoom Webinar and at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska. **Chair Karen Blackburn** (Seat I) was physically present, and the following members were in attendance:

Members Present (In Person):

Erica Dillard, Seat A
Jake Merritt, HR Director
Lonny Marney, City Council Member

Members Present (Zoom):

June Rogers, Seat C
Juanita Webb, Seat D
Dorothy Shockley, Seat F

Members Absent:

Vacant, Seat B
Terry Norman, Seat E
Vacant, Seat G
Vacant, Seat H
Herb Butler, Seat J (excused)
Deirdre Hamilton, Seat K (excused)
David Pruhs, Mayor

Also Present:

D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER (Reading of Mission Statement and Land Acknowledgement)

Chair Blackburn called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. **E. Dillard** read the mission statement, and **J. Rogers** read the land acknowledgement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

J. Rogers, seconded by **E. Dillard**, moved to approve the agenda. There being no objection, the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2025

J. Rogers, seconded by **J. Webb**, moved to approve the meeting minutes. There being no objection, the meeting minutes were approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Blackburn led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS – None

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Blackburn shared that she does not want the FDC to meet just for the sake of holding a meeting; rather, she would like the FDC to be a positive voice in the community. She stated that the FDC needs to communicate with the new Mayor to see what her vision is. She added that the group needs to be out in the community making positive steps toward a goal.

J. Webb agreed with Chair Blackburn's comments.

D. Shockley shared that she spoke with Mayor-elect O'Neill who indicated that she would like to immediately start meeting with diverse local organizations such as Fairbanks Native Association (FNA) and Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC). **D. Shockley** expressed excitement about that.

Chair Blackburn committed to sharing more information with the FDC when she has it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Human Library Update – Event Coordinators: Marney, Webb
Noel Wien Library, New Date??

J. Webb shared that the space was unavailable for the date the FDC had agreed upon, and there were not enough volunteers anyway. She reported that the library has agreed to sponsor the event, help with advertising, and allow use of the three rooms at no cost. She asked for guidance from the group on how to move forward.

L. Marney stated that unless there is full participation from FDC members and unless there are enough "books" for the event, he does not see the Human Library happening.

J. Webb questioned whether the FDC should invite other organizations to help and collaborate on the event. **Chair Blackburn** commented that she likes the idea of involving other organizations. **J. Webb** asked whether she has permission to proceed with planning.

J. Rogers asked what date sounds reasonable. **J. Webb** explained that she is going to be out of town for two weeks in November and suggested holding the event in January instead. No members objected to moving the date of the Human Library event to sometime in January. **Chair Blackburn** stated that J. Webb may proceed with planning for a January event.

- b) Calendar of Events (informational only)

Chair Blackburn referenced the FDC calendar. **J. Webb** asked whether the FDC planned to participate in the local International Friendship Day (IFD) event, as it has done in other years. **Chair Blackburn** volunteered to reach out to event coordinator Rosalind Kan the next morning to find out more.

J. Rogers emphasized the importance of staffing the FDC table and added that not doing so sends a poor message. She discussed the history of FDC's participation in the event. **J. Webb** and **Chair Blackburn** volunteered to help at the event.

c) Discussion on Land Acknowledgement Recommendation

D. Shockley indicated that she would like to see the FDC send a land acknowledgement recommendation to the City Council for consideration. She suggested doing so after the new Mayor is sworn into office. There was no objection from members to sending a land acknowledgement recommendation to the City Council after the new Mayor takes office.

NEW BUSINESS – None

FDC MEMBERS' COMMENTS

J. Rogers stated she had no comments.

D. Shockley expressed excitement for the City's new direction with a new Mayor.

J. Webb suggested that the FDC regularly report to the City Council once things are back up and running. **Chair Blackburn** agreed to do that. **J. Rogers** commented that when the FDC reported regularly to the City Council, there was a lot more exposure for the group.

Dillard stated that she would be available until 3 p.m. and after 6 p.m. to help at the IFD event.

Marney complimented **Chair Blackburn** on her work as FDC Chair.

Merritt stated he had no comments.

Blackburn stated she had no comments.

MEETING DATES

a) Next Regular Meeting Date, November 18, 2025 (rescheduled from November 11)

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Blackburn declared the meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.



Karen Blackburn, Chair



D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Transcribed by: DS