



FAIRBANKS DIVERSITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025, 5:30 – 7:00 P.M.



HELD VIA [ZOOM WEBINAR](#) AND AT  
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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*FDC MISSION STATEMENT: The City of Fairbanks recognizes that our community is a diverse one, with a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds, cultures, beliefs and orientations and recognizes this diversity as an asset and resource for our community. The establishment of a Fairbanks Diversity Council can provide the City Council and Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly with advice and recommendations to promote equal opportunity for all members of the public.*

*LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: We respectfully acknowledge the Dena people upon whose traditional lands we reside. We honor the Dena who have been the stewards of Interior lands and waters for centuries, the Elders who lived here before, the Dena people of today, and future generations to come. We also recognize that Alaskan Native people would traditionally gather here and harvest Native foods.*

1. CALL TO ORDER (Reading of Mission Statement and Land Acknowledgement)
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES
  - a) Regular Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2025
  - b) Regular Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2025
6. CITIZENS' COMMENTS (Limited to 3 Minutes)
7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR
8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - a) Election of New Vice Chair
  - b) Human Library Update – Event Coordinators: Marney, Webb  
Noel Wien Library, September 20, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
  - c) Calendar of Events (informational only)
9. NEW BUSINESS
  - a) Discussion on Land Acknowledgement Recommendation
10. FDC MEMBERS' COMMENTS
11. MEETING DATES
  - a) Next Regular Meeting Date, October 14, 2025 [NOTE: November 11 meeting falls on Veterans Day. Cancel or reschedule?]
12. ADJOURNMENT



FAIRBANKS DIVERSITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 8, 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. **Vice Chair Karen Blackburn** (Seat I) was physically present, and the following members were in attendance:

**Members Present (In Person):**

Erica Dillard, Seat A  
June Rogers, Seat C  
Deirdre Hamilton, Seat K  
Jake Merritt, HR Director

**Members Present (Zoom):**

Herb Butler, Seat J

**Also Present:**

D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk

**Members Absent:**

*Vacant*, Seat B  
Juanita Webb, Seat D (excused)  
*Vacant*, Seat E  
Dorothy Shockley, Seat F  
*Vacant*, Seat G  
*Vacant*, Seat H  
Lonny Marney, City Council Member  
David Pruhs, Mayor

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

**Vice Chair Blackburn** called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. At the request of Vice Chair Blackburn, **E. Dillard** read the mission statement and **J. Rogers** read the Land Acknowledgement.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Vice Chair Blackburn** led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**J. Rogers**, seconded by **E. Dillard**, moved to APPROVE the agenda.

**Vice Chair Blackburn** called for objection on the motion to APPROVE the agenda, and seeing none, the agenda was approved.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2025

**E. Dillard**, seconded by **J. Rogers**, moved to APPROVE the minutes.

Vice Chair Blackburn called for objection on the motion to APPROVE the minutes, and seeing none, the minutes were approved.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS** – None

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

- a) Presentation by Chair Webb and Geri Simon

*The presentation did not occur since Chair Webb and Geri Simon were not present.*

Vice Chair Blackburn asked if anyone had connections in regard to the Intertribal Powwow. Clerk Snider was asked to check with Chair Webb to see if she and former FDC member M. Oss would represent at the event.

Vice Chair Blackburn welcomed new members E. Dillard and D. Hamilton and asked them each to introduce themselves.

**D. Hamilton** stated that her father was in the Air Force, and her mother is an Athabascan who now lives in Texas. She stated that she moved back to Fairbanks five years ago. She stated that she was invited to apply to serve on the FDC at the Juneteenth event. She spoke about the struggles she has faced in retirement, and she spoke briefly about her son who is a civil rights attorney in Colorado.

**D. Hamilton** spoke about her own diversity and shared that she has lived in ten different states and travelled internationally as a child. She stated that her grandfather, Sherman A. Noyes, was a libertarian and a lawyer who lived in Fairbanks during the gold rush days. She shared that he built a house near Tanana Chiefs Conference that is still standing.

**E. Dillard** stated that she was a “military brat” and has lived in Alaska since 2000. She explained that she lived in Kodiak and Sitka before moving to Fairbanks in 2005 where she finished her bachelor’s degree. She shared that she began working for Family Centered Services of Alaska in 2008 and is still with that organization. She stated that she received her master’s degree in justice administration. **E. Dillard** expressed an appreciation for leadership and indicated that was part of the reason she joined some boards. She stated that she enjoys different cultures, and she spoke about the diversity of the places she has lived, including Puerto Rico and Florida. She shared that her husband is a trapper who handsews furs and sells items at local bazaars.

FDC members **J. Rogers, H. Butler, J. Merrit, and K. Blackburn** each gave an introduction of themselves and welcomed the new members.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a) Human Library Update – Event Coordinators: Marney, Webb  
Noel Wien Library, September 20, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

*This item was not addressed.*

- b) Diversity Activity Book

*There was no update on this item.*

- c) Report on May 31 Race Against Racism

**Vice Chair Blackburn** stated that participation was about half of what it was the prior year and expressed hope that participation would increase in 2026. She suggested that the event should be advertised more, possibly on social media. She stated that those who were present were excited and very involved, and it was a good event.

- d) Report on June 14 Juneteenth Celebration

**Vice Chair Blackburn** stated that she was not present at the Juneteenth event. **J. Rogers** stated that the Juneteenth Celebration seemed to be better attended than it was in previous years. She shared that things were very organized, and the music and activities were well-coordinated. She indicated that people enjoyed themselves. **Vice Chair Blackburn** mentioned that there was an incident with a gentleman at the event who was upset that he was not able to serve food from his food truck due to a permitting issue. She indicated that he complained to the NAACP president who handled the complaint professionally. **J. Rogers** commented that people may not know the requirements involved with operating food trucks, and information should be sent to them.

- e) Calendar of Events (informational only)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Upcoming Chair Term Ending; Election of New Vice Chair

*The consensus of the FDC was to postpone this item to the next regular meeting.*

## **FDC MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**H. Butler** provided an update on his medical condition and stated that he will be seeing a specialist in Anchorage. He stated that he stays home most of the time, and that is why he is not present. He questioned what the presentation by Chair Webb and Geri Simon was on the agenda. Clerk Snider explained that the presentation was an effort in collaboration following the FDC's discussion at the FDC's May meeting. **H. Butler** stated that he called Chair Webb after that meeting, but he did not get much information. **J. Rogers** shared that she has spoken with G. Simon, who she believes is very eager to be a part of the conversation. She stated she believes J. Webb and G. Simon are interested in working together.

**E. Dillard** stated she had no comments.

**D. Hamilton** stated that the meeting had been enlightening, and she enjoyed herself.

**J. Rogers** shared that she enjoyed meeting both of the new members and welcomed them again.

**J. Merritt** stated that he had no comments.

**Vice Chair Blackburn** stated that she had no comments.

### **MEETING DATES**

a) Next Regular Meeting Date, August 12, 2025

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Vice Chair Blackburn** declared the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

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Karen Blackburn, Chair

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D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Transcribed by: DS



FAIRBANKS DIVERSITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA  
AUGUST 12, 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 Juanita Webb** (Seat D) was physically present, and the following members were in attendance:

**Members Present (In Person):**

Erica Dillard, Seat A  
Jennifer Hartford, Seat B  
Karen Blackburn, Seat I  
Herb Butler, Seat J  
Deirdre Hamilton, Seat K  
Jake Merritt, HR Director  
Lonny Marney, City Council Member

**Also Present:**

D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk

**Members Present (Zoom):**

June Rogers, Seat C  
Dorothy Shockley, Seat F

**Members Absent:**

*Vacant*, Seat E  
*Vacant*, Seat G  
*Vacant*, Seat H  
David Pruhs, Mayor

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

**Chair Webb** called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. **K. Blackburn** read the land acknowledgement. **H. Butler** read the mission statement.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Chair Webb** led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Chair Webb** added items to the agenda under New Business: email from former member Marsha Oss; and conversation with new members on expectations.

**D. Hamilton**, seconded by **K. Blackburn**, moved to approve the agenda, as amended.

**Chair Webb** called for objection on the motion to APPROVE the agenda, as amended, and seeing none, the agenda was approved.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2025

**K. Blackburn**, seconded by **E. Dillard**, moved to approve the meeting minutes.

**D. Shockley** asked for more information in the section where new members introduced themselves. Clerk Snider indicated that the meeting minutes could be revised to add more detail, and they would return to the body at the next meeting for approval. No members objected.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS** (Limited to 3 Minutes) – None

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

**Chair Webb** stated that she had no report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a) Chair Term Ended; Election of New Vice Chair

**Chair Webb** congratulated K. Blackburn on becoming the new FDC chair. She requested that members consider nominations for Vice Chair, which will be addressed at the next meeting.

- b) Human Library Update – Event Coordinators: Marney, Webb  
Noel Wien Library, September 20, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Chair Webb** asked L. Marney to share with new members about the FDC's upcoming Human Library. **L. Marney** explained that there will be various people, scheduled at certain times, to share about their life experiences with others. **Chair Webb** stated that it is a safe place to learn about others and encouraged members to contact her if they know of someone who would like to volunteer to be a "book." She added that H. Butler has volunteered to be a book.

**J. Rogers** stated that the way the Human Library is being described makes it sound like all the stories will be about times of difficulty. She questioned whether there is an option for someone to share a joyful topic. **Chair Webb** replied that she did not intend for it to sound negative. She asked if anyone had a topic or recommendations to share.

**J. Hartford** stated that her husband has a great story of recovery and indicated that she would speak with him about sharing.

**H. Butler** suggested an in-house library where each FDC member could offer their own story.

**D. Shockley** asked if there is already a list of volunteers. **Chair Webb** stated that, so far, H. Butler is interested as well as a gentleman that lives in Fox who is legally blind.

**J. Rogers** suggested that perhaps former FDC member Jonathan Bagwill may be willing to participate in the library. She stated that he thought it was a really special project.

- c) Diversity Activity Book

**Chair Webb** spoke about her project to create a diversity activity book. She stated that she is personally funding the project, and she has not reported much about it because it was placed on

hold because she had gotten very busy. She stated that while it is not an FDC project, she hopes that the FDC will endorse it when it is finished. She clarified that no City funds are being spent on the project and that the focus is on young children. **H. Butler** shared that he feels that diversity is more of a mature subject and that he has never considered teaching youth about diversity. He stated that it does sound like an opportunity, but he is not sure how it would work. **Chair Webb** explained that the hope is to teach children at a young age to accept people as they are. She shared that some of the pages are finished, but there is no book yet.

**D. Shockley** asked to see a copy. **Chair Webb** agreed to share it but stated that it is still in draft form.

d) Calendar of Events (informational only)

**Chair Webb** asked how the Midnight Sun Intertribal Powwow went. **H. Butler** stated that he attended. He shared that there was a drum group attending from out of state that had applied for years to come to Fairbanks for the Powwow. He indicated that there were also two other drum groups—one from Anchorage and one from Fairbanks—that are regulars at the event. He briefly spoke about the princess pageant, in which a lot of people work hard to enter their children to get them chosen as a princess. **H. Butler** shared that the event took place in well-built tents and indicated that the only drawback was that there were not enough food vendors. He stated that overall, it was a well-done event with plenty of speakers. He added that it is not anything like the competition-type or non-traditional type of Powwows in the Lower 48.

**Chair Webb** asked if anyone attend the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics (WEIO) events. **H. Butler** stated that he did. He spoke in favor of the Carlson Center as the event venue. He shared that he is impressed every year with the number of youth who enter and reach competitive levels—some of whom are not even old enough for college. He stated it is a fun event that he has attended for years, and there does not seem to be any diminishing of the event.

**J. Rogers** shared that she has been attending WEIO events for many years. She shared that she was a part of an early group that started the Powwow. She commented that there are so many youth involved in both WEIO and the Powwow, which makes the events special. She stated that the events need to be supported by the community.

**D. Shockley** shared that WEIO came about in the 1960s and started off as a tourist attraction so people could observe the Alaska Native culture. She stated that the event grew from there. She spoke about the various competitions and stated that they are activities Natives would do to perform actual tasks in their villages. She recalled attending as a child when the event was held in a packed-out Patty Center gymnasium with attendees from all over the state and from all walks of life. She stated that, unfortunately, it is not as big as it used to be, but it is fun to watch and learn.

**Chair Webb** stated that since the FDC meets only once per month, members need to think ahead about events. She listed several upcoming events from the Calendar of Events.

**J. Rogers** stated that she recently spoke with former FDC member Rosalind Kan who would love to be involved with the FDC but is unable to currently due to other commitments.



## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Email from former member Marsha Oss

*This item referenced an email Clerk Snider forwarded to FDC members prior to the meeting. The email was an invitation to the local Restorative Reentry Gathering on August 16.*

- b) Member Introductions and Expectations

**Chair Webb** asked each member to speak about what they are seeking as a member of the FDC and what diversity means to them.

**J. Merritt** introduced himself as the City HR Director. He shared that he believes diversity is an understanding that everyone comes from a different place but everyone has something to offer.

**J. Hartford** stated that she is the HR Director at Family Centered Services of Alaska. She expressed her desire to be more involved in the Fairbanks community. She stated she moved to Fairbanks in 2021, and it is her forever home. She shared that to her diversity is people from different cultures and backgrounds coming together to accept and celebrate those differences. .

**E. Dillard** shared that she works at Family Centered Services of Alaska as the Quality Assurance Director. She stated that her husband is half Yup'ik Eskimo, and she worked at a village high school made up of predominately Native Alaskan students. She stated that through that and raising a diverse family she has learned that it is important for everyone to come together and do great things in spite of differences. She stated that it is important to celebrate differences.

**K. Blackburn** stated that she is the Executive Director for Northern Hope Center. She shared that she is originally from Louisiana but moved to Fairbanks in 2005, then married a pastor's son. She stated that she experienced a culture shock moving to Fairbanks because she was raised in a place that was still segregated. **K. Blackburn** stated that seeing the mixed cultures was new to her, and she was in awe of what Alaska had to offer. She stated she does not want to live anywhere else. She commented that things just kind of flow in the Fairbanks community, and there is no rush for anything. She stated that is how she feels diversity should be: free. She added that it is freeing to be friends with people from all places.

**J. Rogers** commented that diversity is so many more things than most people describe it as. She stated that she tends to see it in a much broader scope. She spoke about how the elderly are revered in the Alaska Native culture, but senior citizens are often left out in other areas in the community. She commented that the local military are not as connected to the community as they should be. She spoke about how special Fairbanks is—how there is a different sense of population. She added that the dress code is “come as you are.” She stated that is what she believes diversity is. **J. Rogers** stated that Fairbanksans are a widely travelled people and that we have only scratched the surface of what diversity is in the Fairbanks community. She stated that diversity should be specific to the community and be about how people work together and help each other. She commented that some

people have previous hurts that make it difficult for them to move forward and trust others and that it is everyone's responsibility to make comfortable spaces.

**D. Shockley** shared that she is Upper Koyukon Dena, and her family comes from Yukon River and Tanana River villages. She stated that she grew up in Manley Hot Springs. She listed the many facets of diversity and stated that if everyone celebrated who they are, there may be no need for a diversity council. She mentioned gender and religion as important parts of diversity, and she stated that embracing and celebrating each other is what diversity means to her.

**H. Butler** shared that his mother was from Nenana, his father was from Allakaket, and he is from a clan from Nenana and Minto. He stated that his wife Nancy is from Huslia and from a much larger clan than him in the Upper Koyukuk River area. He spoke about his written story, which has been on Amazon ebooks for at least 12 years and is titled *Assimilation Trail*. He shared a list of categories that would be a part of a diversity program: ethnicity, gender, LGBTQ, disability, political affiliation, economics, etc. He spoke about how the major oil discovery in the 1970s brought different cultures to Alaska and about how that brought about a major political change that has caused differences. **H. Butler** stated that there is a need for a diversity council, and there is a reason why they such groups exist throughout the nation. He spoke about how successful immigration to the U.S. has resulted in a wide array of religious beliefs. He stated that as far as the FDC is concerned, it is a matter of sitting, observing and becoming more familiar with everyone. He shared that he stopped at the Mayor's table at the fair and asked the representative there to pass on an invitation to the Mayor to attend FDC meetings.

**D. Hamilton** stated that her father was in the Air Force, so she has lived in ten different states and has been overseas twice. She expressed that she feels that that knowledge of other places makes her more diversified than other people. She shared that her sister has two Black sons, one of her daughters has four Black children, and another daughter has two Mexican children. She stated that her family accepts anyone and everyone, and that is what she feels diversity is. She commented that everyone breathes air and bleeds red. She stated she is serving on the FDC to help.

**L. Marney** stated that he came to Alaska in 1974 and planned to stay only a couple of years to finish college. He spoke about his work history in Fairbanks, mostly in vehicle retail. He stated that he has dealt with people his whole life, and if everyone was the same it would be a boring world. He commented that he has lived in Fairbanks for nearly 52 years, and the people and the summers is what keeps him in the community.

**J. Webb** shared that she is the Community Engagement Manager for Explore Fairbanks. She stated that to her, diversity is about communicating and respecting one another even when there are differences. She stated that years ago at FDC meetings, the room was filled with people. She shared that she wants the community to know that the FDC exists and can make a difference.

### **FDC MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**D. Shockley** stated that she would like for the FDC to send the land acknowledgement resolution to the City Council once a month for consideration. She explained she was disappointed that the

Council voted it down, but she still feels a need to continue to ask the Council to consider it. She stated that maybe they will recognize the importance of it. She welcomed the new FDC members.

**L. Marney** asked D. Shockley if she was aware that Councilmember Therrien provides a land acknowledgement at each City Council meeting. **D. Shockley** stated that she was not aware, and that is great. She added, however, that she would still like for the Council to acknowledge it.

**H. Butler**, referencing the email that was sent out, asked what reentry means. **Chair Webb** stated that reentry is when an incarcerated person is released and reenters society. **H. Butler** stated that he is friends with Leonard Peltier, who was finally released from prison and is now enjoying home confinement thanks to the last acts of President Biden. He explained that L. Peltier is at his reservation in Belcourt, ND and has received hundreds of visitors since his release. He shared that L. Peltier is now in his 80s but has become more accustomed to being a “free” man after nearly 50 years behind bars.

**Chair Webb**, in response to D. Shockley’s comments, requested that a discussion regarding the land acknowledgement be place on the next agenda. She reminded FDC members to RSVP for meetings by responding to Clerk Snider’s emails.

### **MEETING DATES**

- a) Next Regular Meeting Date, September 9, 2025

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Chair Webb** declared the meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

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Karen Blackburn, Chair

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D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Transcribed by: DS

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**Sec. 2-232. FDC—Composition; term of office.**

- (a) The FDC shall include 11 public voting members broadly selected to represent the diverse people of Fairbanks. Ten community members shall be appointed by the city mayor subject to the approval of the city council. One community member shall be appointed by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor, subject to the approval of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly. Preference for city-appointed positions shall be given to residents of the City of Fairbanks. All appointments of the public members shall be for three-year terms, without compensation. The term of members shall be until June 30 of the third year from appointment.
- (b) In the event of the death, resignation, removal or disqualification of any member of the FDC, the city mayor or Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor, as the case may be, shall appoint to the FDC, subject to confirmation by the city council or borough assembly, as the case may be, a member who shall serve for the unexpired term vacated.
- (c) The city attorney or designee shall be made available upon request to provide information, not to act as legal counsel, to the FDC.

(Ord. No. 5939, § 1, 3-15-2014; Ord. No. 6045, § 1, 4-29-2017; Ord. No. 6114, § 1, 11-2-2019)

## JANUARY

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## APRIL

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## JUNE

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## OCTOBER

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## DECEMBER

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## JANUARY

Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday (Jan 20)

## FEBRUARY

*Black History Month*

Presidents Day (Feb 17)

Festival of Native Arts (Feb 27th - Mar 1)

## MARCH

*Disability Awareness Month*

*Women's History Month*

TCC Annual Convention (Mar 10 - 13)

## APRIL

*Autism Awareness Month*

## MAY

*Mental Health Awareness Month*

Senior Recognition Day Luncheon (May 8)

Mother's Day (May 11)

Memorial Day (May 26)

Race Against Racism (May 31, 11 a.m.)

## JUNE

*Pride Month*

Juneteenth Celebration (Jun 14)

Father's Day (Jun 15)

Juneteenth (Jun 19)

## JULY

Independence Day (Jul 4)

Golden Days (Jul 12 - 19)

World Eskimo-Indian Olympics (Jul 16 - 19)

Midnight Sun Intertribal Powwow (Jul 18 - 20)

Tanana Valley State Fair (Jul 25 - Aug 3)

## AUGUST

## SEPTEMBER

Labor Day (Sept 1)

Human Library (Sept 20, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

## OCTOBER

Indigenous People's Day (Oct 13)

Alaska Day (Oct 17)

International Friendship Day (Oct 18)

TCC Conference (?)

## NOVEMBER

Veterans Day (Nov 11)

## DECEMBER



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Matherly and City Council Members

THROUGH: Fairbanks Diversity Council

FROM: D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk



SUBJECT: **Updated** FDC Recommendation on City Council Resolution No. 4981

DATE: March 9, 2022

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### Updated Recommendation:

At its Regular Meeting of March 8, 2022, the Fairbanks Diversity Council voted unanimously to recommend the approval of City Council Resolution No. 4981 in its original form. Three voting members were absent.

### Original Recommendation:

The City Council referred the following resolution to the Fairbanks Diversity Council on November 8, 2021, with a deadline to report back to the City Council by January 17, 2022:

Resolution No. 4981 – A Resolution Approving the Reading of a Land Acknowledgement at the Beginning of Regular City Council Meetings.

At its Regular Meeting of January 11, 2022, the Fairbanks Diversity Council voted to recommend the approval of City Council Resolution No. 4981 with amendments. The motion PASSED by a vote of 6 Ayes to 2 Nays. Three voting members were absent.

**RESOLUTION NO. 4981**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE READING OF A LAND  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF REGULAR CITY  
COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**WHEREAS**, the esteemed Denakkanaaga Elders have crafted and approved of the Land Acknowledgement set out below to be used in various publications, on appropriate signage, prior to meetings and conferences, as well as other suitable uses; and

**WHEREAS**, a Land Acknowledgement can function as a living celebration of Indigenous communities; and

**WHEREAS**, a Land Acknowledgement, by itself, is a small gesture, but it becomes meaningful when coupled with authentic relationships and informed action.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fairbanks City Council directs that the following Land Acknowledgement be read at the beginning of Regular City Council meetings:

We respectfully acknowledge the Dena people upon whose traditional lands we reside. We honor the Dena who have been the stewards of Interior lands and waters for centuries, the Elders who lived here before, the Dena people of today, and future generations to come. We also recognize that Alaskan Native people would traditionally gather here and harvest Native foods.

**PASSED and APPROVED** this \_\_\_\_ day of March 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jim Matherly, Mayor**

AYES: Rogers, Therrien  
NAYS: Clark, Gibson, Marney, Cleworth  
ABSENT: Matherly  
FAILED: March 14, 2022

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Ewers, City Attorney