



FAIRBANKS DIVERSITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
MAY 13, 2025, 5:30 – 7:00 P.M.
HELD VIA [ZOOM WEBINAR](#) AND AT
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA



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 April 8, 2025
6. CITIZENS' COMMENTS (Limited to 3 Minutes)
7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR
8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a) Human Library Update – Event Coordinators: Oss, Marney, Webb
 - i) Location: Noel Wien Library
 - ii) Date & Time: September 20, 2025, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 - b) Race Against Racism Update – Event Coordinators: Webb, Oss, Blackburn
 - i) Location: JP Jones Community Center
 - ii) Date & Time: May 31, 11 a.m.
 - c) Diversity Activity Book
 - d) Calendar of Events (informational only)
9. NEW BUSINESS
 - a) Pledge of Mutual Respect
10. FDC MEMBERS' COMMENTS
11. MEETING DATES
 - a) Next Regular Meeting Date, June 10, 2025
12. ADJOURNMENT



FAIRBANKS DIVERSITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 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. **Chair Juanita Webb** (Seat D) was physically present, and the following members were in attendance:

Members Present (In Person):

June Rogers, Seat C
Dorothy Shockley, Seat F (arrived at 5:32)
Karen Blackburn, Seat I
Herb Butler, Seat J
Lonny Marney, City Council Member

Members Absent:

Vacant, Seat A
Jonathan Bagwill, Seat G
Vacant, Seat H
Vacant, Seat K
David Pruhs, Mayor
Jake Merritt, HR Director (excused)

Members Present (Zoom):

Richard Basarab, Seat B (arrived at 5:34)
Marsha Oss, Seat E

Also Present:

D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk

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

Chair Webb called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The Land Acknowledgement and the AAMC Mission Statement were read into the record.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Webb led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M. Oss, seconded by **J. Rogers**, moved to APPROVE the agenda.

Chair Webb called for a voice vote on the motion to APPROVE the agenda, and all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2025

M. Oss, seconded by **H. Butler**, moved to APPROVE the minutes.

Chair Webb called for a voice vote on the motion to APPROVE the minutes, and all members voted in favor.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS (Limited to 3 Minutes) – None

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Webb did not provide a report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Human Library Update – Event Coordinators: Oss, Marney, Webb
 - i) Tentative location: Noel Wien Library conference room (\$25) or auditorium (\$50)
 - ii) Tentative date & time: September 20, 2025, hours available are 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

At the request of Chair Webb, **M. Oss** provided a summary of the planning that has been done so far for the Human Library event. She stated that library staff was supportive of idea of hosting the event, and she recommended that the FDC approve the library for the event location. Members discussed the hours of the event. **Chair Webb** suggested that she, M. Oss, and L. Marney tour the space to see which rooms will work best. Members discussed room options, and there was consensus that the smaller rooms should not be used.

M. Oss, seconded by **J. Rogers**, moved to designate the Noel Wien Library as the location for the Human Library event to be held on September 20 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Chair Webb called for a voice vote on the motion to designate the location, time, and date for the Human Library event, and all members voted in favor.

- b) Decision on Whether to Host Diversity Fair – Event Coordinators: Webb, Blackburn

Chair Webb stated that FDC members feel that it may not be best to hold a diversity fair event, given that there is already an International Friendship Day (IFD) event held locally each year.

Chair Webb called for objection to eliminating the diversity fair as a 2025 FDC event, and no members objected.

J. Rogers commented that the FDC's mission is to create relationships and help promote fellowship and people working together – not to serve as event producers. She stated that there are plenty of existing events in the community that need support.

- c) Race Against Racism Update – Event Coordinators: Webb, Oss, Blackburn

Chair Webb stated that she spoke with Andy Harrington who indicated that one of the expenses in putting on the event is the cost of the required insurance. She stated that she is a Host Lion, and that organization maintains such an insurance policy. She indicated that including the Host Lions in the event partnership would allow for the race to be covered by the Host Lions insurance policy.

d) Diversity Activity Book

Chair Webb stated that she has no update to report.

e) Calendar of Events

Chair Webb mentioned that April is Autism Awareness Month, and she reviewed upcoming May events.

NEW BUSINESS – None

FDC MEMBERS' COMMENTS

K. Blackburn indicated that she had no comments.

L. Marney suggested that everyone start thinking about topics for the Human Library. **Chair Webb** requested that the item to be added to the May meeting agenda. **M. Oss** stated that Human Library topics are typically chosen by each individual who volunteers to be a book, so there are several different topics.

D. Shockley stated that she appreciates being back.

H. Butler indicated that he had no comments.

R. Basarab stated that he missed about three minutes of audio near the beginning of the meeting. **Chair Webb** filled R. Basarab in on what he missed.

R. Basarab expressed concern with how the FDC will proceed with the assault by the federal government on inclusion and diversity. He stated that he does not see a big distinction between Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and the commissions that were enforcing those rights. He stated that the federal government is using artificial intelligence (AI) to target websites, rules, and regulations that reference diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). He questioned whether that is something the FDC is prepared to deal with. **Chair Webb** stated that the FDC has not had a discussion about the issue but indicated that it could be added to the May agenda. **H. Butler** stated that he has spoken about DEI at the past couple meetings, which is shown in the meeting minutes. He spoke of how the University of Alaska has fallen victim to the Trump administration, with funding at risk. **M. Oss** shared that she works closely with multiple professors at UAF who have announced publicly that they plan to replace DEI terms with synonyms that will not be picked up by AI. She stated that State Representative Ashley Carrick hosted a town hall meeting about the topic, and it is “business as usual” at UAF. She questioned railing against it and drawing attention to the issue. **R. Basarab** stated that it will trickle down to the City as well, and he suggested that the FDC would be talking with the Mayor and Council about it at some point. **D. Shockley** shared that at UAA they let two people with Native Services go and that they would be shutting down that section.

J. Rogers indicated that she had no comments.

Chair Webb shared that the next FDC meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2025.

M. Oss stated that she received a notification that her term will expire June 30 and that she would need to reapply to remain on the FDC. She indicated that she is undecided about whether to reapply. She shared that she was recently in Ohio attending a suicidology conference with the Wellness Coalition Coordinator. She stated they discussed the idea of a partnership between the FDC and the Wellness Coalition and indicated that the Coalition is open to the idea.

Clerk Snider shared that the City would host a table at the senior citizen event in May.

MEETING DATES

- a) Next Regular Meeting Date, May 13, 2025

Chair Webb encouraged members to send topics for Human Library books to the Clerk.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Webb declared the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Juanita Webb, Chair

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Transcribed by: DS

JANUARY

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OCTOBER

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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

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date: 3-7-00

Submitted by: Assemblymembers TAYLOR, Meyer, Abney, Clementson,
Fairclough, Kendall, Sullivan, Tesche, Tremaine, Von Gemmingen, and Wuerch
Prepared by: Assembly Office
For reading: MARCH 7, 2000

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR NO. 2000- 59

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS
OF "BRIDGE BUILDERS" AND ENCOURAGING ALL ANCHORAGE CITIZENS TO SIGN "THE PLEDGE
OF MUTUAL RESPECT"

WHEREAS, in 1996, Mayor Rick Mystrom invited several African American and Caucasian ministers to dinner to talk about how to prevent racial tension; however, what began as a discussion of black and white soon expanded to include a multitude of cultures and racial backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this dinner, a new initiative - called Bridge Builders - was established with its goal of building "a community of friends" among all racial and cultural groups in Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the award-winning Bridge Builders program is helping to create a friendlier and safer Anchorage as members and guests gather twice a year for a summer potluck and a winter festival - where persons of different cultures are randomly paired and then gather for "get togethers" - and as friendships are made among people of all backgrounds, citizens of our community draw closer together, celebrate each others' cultures, and help each other in times of need; and

WHEREAS, given the richness of diversity in Anchorage, and the need to bring understanding and respect to every corner of our city, Bridge Builders developed the following pledge:

The Pledge of Mutual Respect

"We the people of Anchorage, Alaska, pledge to respect one another, celebrating the differences that make us unique: our customs, spiritual beliefs, cultures, colors, dreams and ancestral traditions. Standing together, hand-in-hand, young and old, we affirm that through mutual respect we can build a stronger, more harmonious community, a more unified nation, and a better, safer world."

NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly resolves:

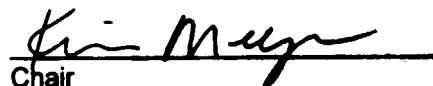
Section 1: That the Assembly recognizes the success of Bridge Builders and thanks Mayor Mystrom, Malcolm Roberts, and all those who have done so much to make Bridge Builders a vital program within our community.

Section 2: That the Assembly encourages all Anchorage citizens to sign "The Pledge of Mutual Respect" - a pledge to honor people of all colors, cultures, customs, and faith.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Municipal Assembly this 7th day of March, 2000.

ATTEST:


Municipal Clerk


Chair