



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.



Karen Blackburn, Chair



D. Danyelle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Transcribed by: DS