



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 FDC 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 Wein 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.

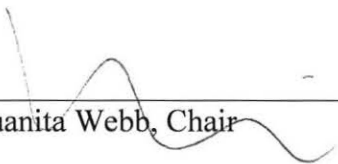
### **MEETING DATES**

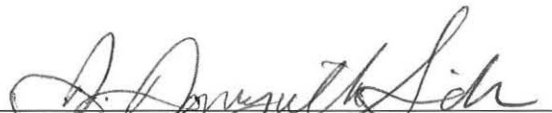
- a) Next Regular Meeting Date, May 13, 2025

**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.

  
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Juanita Webb, Chair

  
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D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Transcribed by: DS