MINUTES
JUNEAU HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
MARCH 21, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 5:14 pm.

a. Present: Haifa Foroughi, Lance Mitchell, Mary Wegner, and Paula Drake
b. Absent: Camille Mauch and Emily Mesch
c. Support: None

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The Agenda was rearranged and approved by consensus.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
a. Minutes of the March 7, 2023 Meeting: The Minutes were approved by consensus.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NON-AGENDA ITEMS: No public were present.

V. AGENDA
a. Support Ukrainian Refugees: Camille and Mary reached out to members of the Sponsor Circle in Juneau who are supporting a Ukrainian family to see if needs have surfaced where we might be able to provide non-financial support. They appreciated the offer of support and will get back to us if they identify needs. There is a second family in town, a mother with an 18 year old child. A new family will be arriving in the near future, which consists of a young couple in their early 20's and their dog.

b. Strategic Plan 2022-23: We shared the current version of the Strategic Plan with Paula to help orientate her to the document. When all Commission members are present at the same meeting, we will sign up for our areas of focus with an intention to work in pairs on projects.

a. Draft Resolution on Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index regarding the areas noted for improvement: Camille, Emily, and Haifa met to draft a resolution for the JHRC to review. We read through the draft resolution and began to discuss the the various elements. We identified two areas where we might want to make revisions to the document:

WHEREAS the scorecard identifies that CBJ has no law or policy that requires the businesses the city contracts with to have an employee non-discrimination policy that expressly covers sexual orientation and gender identity;

In our discussion we wondered if we should also add grants that are provided by CBJ to support social services in Juneau. Possible wording could be as follows:

…businesses the city contracts with or provides grant funding to have…

Section 1. Upon adopting this resolution, the Assembly:

D. Will explore options to provide resources and support to JHRC for the purposes of addressing individual cases of LGBTQ discrimination brought by Juneau residents

In our discussion we were concerned that the language about individual cases could have unintended consequences in people thinking we had the authority to judicate cases of discrimination, which is not part of our Charter. We are always open to hearing from individuals about cases of discrimination so we can help point them to resources where they can receive support; however, we wondered whether or not the existing draft language would send the wrong message about our authority. Possible wording revisions would be to take out the words "individual cases of" and change the word "brought" to "experienced".

… addressing ~~individual cases of~~ LGBTQ discrimination ~~brought~~ experienced by…

b. Transgender Town Hall Planning: We will hold the event sometime between September 18th to 29th (except Yom Kippur) with the final date left to Aidan. Emily will be the lead from JHRC working with Aidan on advertising the event on the radio. Nothing new at this time.

c. FY25 Budget Proposal: Nothing new at this time.

d. Celebrating Black History Month 2024: Nothing new at this time.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT: No public was present.

VII. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

a. April 4, 2023 at 5:00 pm
b. April 18, 2023 at 5:00 pm
c. May 2, 2023 at 5:00 pm

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.