

Minutes

AMES HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Conference Room 235
City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue
Thursday, October 27, 2022

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Vice Chair Wayne Clinton. Members present were Chunhui Chen, Khushi Patel, and Lynette Plander. City of Ames Staff Liaison Deb Schildroth was also present.

Welcome New AHRC Member Khushi Patel: Patel introduced herself, noting that she is a sophomore at Iowa State University serving as the Fredrickson Court Senator, Seated Senator for the Local Affairs Committee, and as a member of the Finance Committee. She discussed her previous experience with City Government.

Each of the other Commission members shared a few notes about themselves and their motivation for serving on the Ames Human Relations Commission.

Public Forum: Vice Chair Clinton opened the Public Forum. No one was present to speak, and Vice Chair Clinton closed the Public Forum.

Agency Presentation – The Bridge Home: Vice Chair Clinton tabled this item as there was not representative from The Bridge Home present and noted the Commission would return to this agenda item upon their arrival.

Approval of Minutes: Moved by Chen, seconded by Plander, to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2022, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations: Assistant City Manager Schildroth noted the fifth annual Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations will be hosted on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center. She announced that two tickets are available to the Commission for the monetary support provided for the event. Vice Chair Clinton and Chen both confirmed their intent to attend.

Strategic Plan: Vice Chair Clinton reviewed the Strategic Plan, noting it speaks volumes about the purpose and impact of the Commission. He welcomed all comments, questions, and proposed changes.

The Commission members discussed revisions to the Plan, exploring ways in which to collaborate while still respecting everyone's time. It was decided Plander would work on revisions to Goal B

while Chen and Patel revised Goal C, and Vice Chair Clinton considered Goal D. Vice Chair Clinton noted that the Commission members could join forces with Chair Fisher to understand her preference on completing a wholistic review of the Plan.

Plander announced the College of Business at Iowa State University hosts a CyBiz Lab Project where MBA students complete service learning projects as a volunteer learning experience to support non-profit organizations. She noted their services may be of interest to the Commission in evaluating the Strategic Plan. After discussion, it was agreed Plander would reach out to the program organizer to see if any spots were still available for spring selection.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator: Assistant City Manager Schildroth announced the interview schedule for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator candidates. The Commission discussed their involvement and availability for participation. Following, the Commission members reviewed questions for the candidates.

Speaker Invitations: The Commission members agreed to pursue speaker invitations and discussed ways to extend invitation to local organizations. It was agreed Plander would reach back out to The Bridge Home, Chen would connect with the Ames Chinese Language Academy, and Patel would communicate with the India Cultural Association of Central Iowa to get an idea of their availability to attend a meeting.

Social Media: Assistant City Manager Schildroth announced the results of the October Trivia Question. In terms of interaction and engagement, the Trivia Question had 644 views on Instagram and 742 views on Facebook. She pointed out there was competing interest as the City of Ames posted multiple items that day but highlighted the results were not discouraging.

The Commission discussed ideas for future posts and ways to increase engagement. Patel noted it would be beneficial to post a Trivia Question weekly or biweekly. Assistant City Manager replied staff has the capacity to post more on social media, but the Commission members would need to supply the questions. The Commission also reviewed ideas for creating a theme or honoring a specific group of people in the Trivia Questions each month coinciding with what each month is known for.

Commissioner Announcements: Assistant City Manager Schildroth announced the upcoming Community Conversation on Mental Health. She noted the next Conversation would be hosted on November 7, 2022 at the Ames Water Treatment Plant, 1800 East 13th Street, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Conversation is planned to focus on Mental Health Education and Resources. She encouraged the Commission members to attend and the spread the word to their networks.

Vice Chair Clinton reminded everyone to vote in the upcoming election on November 8, 2022. He noted satellite voting is available at the Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Avenue, both Saturdays preceding election day.

Next Meetings: Thursday, December 1, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 15, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Vice Chair Clinton adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.