

## Minutes

### AMES HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Conference Room 235  
City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue  
Thursday, December 1, 2022

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Chair Jahmai Fisher. Members present were Wayne Clinton, Lynette Plander, Chunhui Chen, and Khushi Patel. City of Ames Staff Liaison Deb Schildroth was also present.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Moved by Clinton, seconded by Chen, to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2022, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Strategic Plan:** Vice Chair Clinton offered an update on how the commissioners had split up the Strategic Plan goals for review: Plander revised Goal B, Chen and Patel revised Goal C, and Clinton revised Goal D. There was discussion of several potential wording changes, which expanded into a larger conversation about purpose and length of the Strategic Plan.

Plander noted that the work of the Commission did not rise to the level of advocacy. Chair Fisher agreed, suggesting that awareness and outreach would be a better description. Chen suggested shaving the Strategic Plan down to one page, transferring the aspirational items to a separate document of potential activities. Vice Chair Clinton advised that a drastic revision would require significantly more time investment. Chair Fisher emphasized that the Strategic Plan was a tool for accountability, so it should better reflect what the commission actually does. Vice Chair Clinton expressed interest in looking at examples of Strategic Plans from cities with similar demographics for comparison. A consensus was reached to keep the current plan largely intact and edit the wording for clarification in a few places.

The commissioners agreed to keep the previous section assignments; review with an eye to what the Commission has done and what the commission would like to do in the future; and email their revisions to Chair Fisher by January 16, 2023. Chair Fisher would incorporate the changes into one document and send it to staff by January 23, 2023, for inclusion in the January 26, 2023, meeting agenda packet.

**Update on the City’s DEI Coordinator Position:** Assistant City Manager Schildroth shared the interview schedule for the remaining Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator candidate.

**Update on Humanitarian Award Applications:** Assistant Manager Schildroth stated that the deadline for applications would be December 9, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. So far only one application had been received, and it did not meet the award criteria. Assistant Manager Schildroth encouraged the commissioners to brainstorm and encourage community members to make nominations, and indicated that she would share a list of past award recipients for reference. Patel inquired whether organizations were eligible for the award, and Assistant Manager Schildroth answered in the affirmative, noting that last year was the first time an organization had received the award.

**Discussion of Speaker Invitations Ideas and Schedule:** Plander shared that she received an email from The Bridge Home indicating that they could attend the January meeting. The commissioners agreed to invite them to that meeting, and Plander indicated that she would follow up with them. Chen stated that he contacted the individual from the Ames Chinese Language Academy, and although she was interested, she was not available. Patel noted that she reached out to the Indian Cultural Association of Central Iowa, but has not heard back.

**Postings and Social Media Content:** Patel shared that she had written several Trivia Questions for future use, and Assistant Manager Schildroth welcomed the commissioners to send the questions to her so that City staff could post them periodically. Vice Chair Clinton suggested writing a question on the topic of the new High School gymnasium being named after Harrison Barnes. Patel suggested that the questions could be about Iowa rather than just about Ames.

**Commissioner Announcements:** Vice Chair Clinton shared that the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee has identified a keynote speaker for the event on January 16, 2023. The committee is finalizing plans to host it in the Ames Auditorium and gymnasium, with cake from Hy-Vee and entertainment from the Ames High Jazz Band and a children’s choir. Vice Chair Clinton clarified for Assistant Manager Schildroth that the committee had considered the Middle and High School gymnasiums as possible locations, but decided that the media technology in those locations could not accommodate their plans.

**Next Meetings:** December 15, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. (Special Meeting)  
January 26, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Moved by Chair Fisher, seconded by Clinton, to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.