

1 **Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission**  
2 **Meeting Minutes**  
3 **June 21, 2023**  
4  
5

6 **Commissioners Present:** Amanda Becker, Elliot Francke, Jeena Gurung Vomhof, William  
7 Hill, Richard James, Kathryn Macomber, and Adepeju Solarin  
8 (Peju).  
9

10 **Youth Commissioners:** None

11  
12 **Commissioners Absent:** Chair Laura Palmquist, and David Tidball (excused)  
13

14 **Staff Present:** Thomas Brooks, Equity, and Inclusion Manager  
15

16 **Call to Order/Roll Call**  
17

18 The Human Rights, Inclusion, and Engagement Commission (HRIEC) meeting was called to  
19 order at 6:30 p.m.  
20

21 **Public Comment**  
22

23 Ms. Jessica Raygor, Commissioner on the Parks and Recreation Commission, and Parks and  
24 Recreation Director Matt Johnson addressed the Commission regarding the possibility of the  
25 Commission's involvement in a land acknowledgment of Pocahontas Park to Keya Park  
26 renaming in some way in the City.  
27

28 Mr. Johnson recapped the history of the park and the renaming process that occurred.  
29

30 Commissioner Raygor thought it was important to have the people that will be using the park to  
31 get together and meet each other, and the Park and Recreation Commission thought the HRIEC  
32 could help with that.  
33

34 Commissioner Francke asked if the Park and Recreation Commission would be open to two  
35 things, one whether meeting, such as the City Council meeting and possibly Commission  
36 meetings makes a statement at every meeting acknowledging the source of the land and perhaps  
37 also in some of the literature the City puts out and the second question is would the Park and  
38 Recreation Commission be looking for signage, at least in the parks and possibly on City owned  
39 properties with the land acknowledgement.  
40

41 Mr. Johnson Thanked Commissioner Francke for the question. He thought from the Park and  
42 Recreation Commission's perspective, he thought it would be a part of the conversation, not only  
43 a desire to have something that is on paper but something that is out there and would deem to be  
44 appropriate and one were developed that was really keeping in the spirit of the City's indigenous  
45 community. He thought that is also a policy decision that the Council would need to be involved  
46 in but functionally from discussions that the Park and Recreation Commission has had and the

47 direction the City has gone he thinks that there would be some support to signage to that effect in  
48 the parks. As to the other question he thought it was a larger policy conversation and ultimately  
49 part of why the Commission thinks it goes beyond the Parks and Recreation and ultimately  
50 would be a recommendation that would come from either this group or staff or Council.

51  
52 Vice Chair James indicated what his understanding is that the Park and Recreation Commission  
53 is asking the HRIEC to take the ball and carry it from here.

54  
55 Mr. Johnson thought that was a fair statement. He indicated he would be happy to share some of  
56 the resources with Mr. Brooks to bring to the HRIEC. He thought the Commission would be an  
57 important voice and it was important that this would be led by the HRIEC. He indicated the Park  
58 and Recreation Commission wants to make sure that this is done right so while there will be  
59 signage and a playground in the park this fall, some of this is an ongoing conversation and  
60 having gone through a two year process on that name change, he did not think there is any  
61 expectation that it will be quick or necessarily easy and that is why there will likely need to be  
62 staff support and probably an understanding of where the Council is at before the Commission  
63 gets too far down the tracks. He felt this is likely something bigger than just the Park and  
64 Recreation Commission doing something, and he does not want to overstep the hard work the  
65 HRIEC has done to make sure the members are engaged in the issues.

66  
67 Commissioner Gurung Vomhof asked Mr. Johnson if the Park and Recreation Commission is  
68 only talking about one park right now.

69  
70 Mr. Johnson explained it would potentially be worthwhile to go back and watch the Council  
71 meeting conversation because the conversation began around one park but there was anecdotal  
72 conversation related to maybe this should be bigger and by no means what came out of the  
73 conversation saying it will be and this is what will happen but there was an interest in  
74 understanding that more. The Park and Recreation Commission conversation has focused  
75 mainly on the one park, but he thought there was interest in going broader than that from a park's  
76 perspective.

77  
78 The Commission discussed with Mr. Johnson and Commissioner Raygor what the Parks and  
79 Recreation Commission is tasking the HRIEC with.

80  
81 Mr. Brooks thought if the Commission wants to discuss this further, he could put this on the  
82 September agenda.

83  
84 Commissioner Becker indicated she was going to suggest that because she would like to look  
85 into land acknowledgment a little bit more because transparently, she was a little ignorant about  
86 that and trying to see what the outcome of it and how it affects different populations of people.  
87 She thought if she would come to the Commission with some of her own education around that  
88 she thought it would be helpful.

89  
90 **Commission Response to Community Issues**

91

92 **Commissioner Outreach and Engagement Updates**

93

94 The Commission recapped the Juneteenth celebration event.

95

96 **Approve Minutes**

97

98 **a. May 17, 2023 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission**

99

100 Commissioner Francke moved and Commissioner Macomber seconded a motion to approve the  
101 May 17, 2023 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission meeting minutes as  
102 presented. Motion passed unanimously.

103

104 **Commissioner Resignation Acknowledgement**

105

106 Commissioner Peju indicated she had a resignation letter to the Commission and apologized for  
107 the shock; however, there are concerns to the way the City addresses privacy and confidentiality  
108 matters that on a manner of principal is not okay with her. She cannot say enough that it has  
109 been a little difficult to conclude it here; however, she might still be at the Rosefest and if  
110 possible, there are ways and capacities that she can support and engage. But particularly the way  
111 the City has things set up, she cannot continue remain on the Commission, effective  
112 immediately.

113

114 The Commission indicated they were sorry to see her go.

115

116 Commissioner Becker indicated she admired Commissioner Peju's convictions and values that  
117 she feels strongly about and stand by and thought those were good qualities to have on a  
118 Commission like this so she will be missed and a vacant space.

119

120 Commissioner Peju hoped the Commission will have a chance to explore. She has made some  
121 suggestions in the resignation letter to the Council and to staff and to Roseville in general.

122

123 Commissioner Peju left the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

124

125 **New Business**

126

127 **a. Workplan Updates**

128

- Rosefest

129

130 Commissioner Becker updated the Commission on Monday, June 26, 2023  
131 Rosefest parade. She noted there will be some candy and fans that can be  
132 handed out to people with the Boards and Commission's QR Code on them.

133

134 Vice Chair James asked if there has been any signage made for the parade.

135

136 Mr. Brooks indicated he has some signs that he will give to the Commission.  
137 There are new lawn signs for each of the Commissions. He noted he has not  
138 received a lot of RSVPs yet but there should be at least one or two  
139 Commissioners attending from each Commission. He hoped that the HRIEC  
140 Commissioners will be there in full force.

- 141
- 142 • Proclamation Support

143  
144 Commissioner Macomber indicated she did not have anything to report on  
145 this.

146  
147 Vice Chair James explained he had an email about the people who are  
148 working on the display cases should deal with him instead of with Chair  
149 Palmquist. He noted he has not heard anything from anyone, but he will  
150 contact Chair Palmquist about that.

- 151
- 152 • Youth Engagement

153  
154 Mr. Brooks indicated Chair Palmquist has been the point person on this item.

- 155
- 156 • Essay Contest

157  
158 Vice Chair James indicated he has not done anything with this yet but will try  
159 ton convene a meeting of the essay subgroup during the summer at some point  
160 and also try to set up a meeting with Dr. Lake to try to get a guide from her on  
161 who to contact.

162

163 **b. Discuss HRIEC Commission Scope Update**

164 Vice Chair James explained the HRIEC has been tasked by City Council to review  
165 their scope, roles, responsibilities, and time commitment according to statute. The  
166 intent is to better align the work of the Commission, the goals of the City Council,  
167 and the needs of the community. He recapped the discussion from the meeting in  
168 May.

169  
170 Commissioner Francke explained the Inclusion subgroup had a meeting via Google  
171 Messenger and he has submitted to Mr. Brooks the minutes from that. He indicated  
172 there are a couple of things that the subgroup decided on that he was hoping to bring  
173 up at the meeting. The first one is to get the Commission to adapt wholesale the  
174 wording that was created by Commission Becker for mission and vision statements  
175 that were presented at the last meeting and also the City Council. He thought the  
176 Commission needed to start with that. One of things discussed was not going any  
177 further on specific work until those were approved and then from there to start a  
178 discussion within their Inclusion subgroup as to what type of work assignments they  
179 should have and along those lines, for example, outreach to those different agencies  
180 and groups he mentioned earlier as just one potential aspect and mainly, at this point

181 to get them involved in City wide events and anything else that the City Council  
182 thinks the Commission should get involved in. Eventually he thought this would  
183 expand to have listening sessions with different groups that show interest and might  
184 be interested in the Commission in order to be a conduit to the City Council and listen  
185 to what their concerns are, what are the problems, what do these groups want to see  
186 done within the City that addresses the needs of their specific organizations or groups  
187 and also for the Commission to communicate back to them, not just the events, but  
188 anything the City Council wishes to have disseminated as education or information  
189 through those meetings. That is pretty broad and there is a huge number of groups. It  
190 would basically have to be on a rotating basis or with certain people assigned to a  
191 small number of groups for meetings on a regular basis that is deemed worthwhile by  
192 members of those groups and then the Commission. For him, that is an ultimate goal,  
193 but he was not sure if the Commission can take that much work on at this point. He  
194 thought at least start with the events that are sponsored by the City or participated in  
195 by the City. He asked Vice Chair James to ask for a motion to approve the mission  
196 and vision statements as the Commission has previously discussed.

197  
198 Vice Chair James indicated he was going to ask Commissioner Francke to elaborate  
199 on that because that kind of change would need to come before the whole  
200 Commission and not just the sub-group.

201  
202 Mr. Brooks explained it would not be appropriate to make that motion at this meeting.  
203 Staff would need to provide the materials to the entire Commission to review and  
204 discuss at a future meeting. He also thought the Commission needed to follow  
205 through with the discussion on Commission Scope as requested by Council because  
206 that will also impact what the mission statement is.

207  
208 **Other New Business or Reports**

209 **a. Staff Updates**

210 Equity and Inclusion Manager Brooks reported on the following:

211 • Commission Recruitment

212 ○ Youth Recruitment

213 Mr. Brooks indicated staff is still working on ways to try to recruit  
214 youth for the Commissions and get the youth involved more in the  
215 City. Staff is looking at an idea of combining City involvement and  
216 workforce development to create a youth leadership council that would  
217 be essentially a summer internship for youth and for the remaining  
218 months of the year the youth would serve on a council. The hope is to  
219 bring youth in to learn about the City and everything the City does to  
220 have an opportunity to job shadow and be exposed to opportunities in  
221 the City and also be able to leverage that expertise throughout the year  
222 for whatever comes up. This would be sort of a paid alternative to  
223 what the City has now for Youth Commissioners.

224

225 Commissioner Hill indicated he was all for compensating the youth for  
226 their time. He thought it was extremely important that the youth are  
227 valued for their time, their gifts, and their greatness. He was a fan of  
228 always giving some resources to the youth.

229  
230 Vice Chair James asked if the idea was that only Roseville residents  
231 would serve on that.

232  
233 Mr. Brooks explained this would be a Council that would be more  
234 advisory to staff and in any way the City needed them. The internship  
235 would be paid as well as any Council meetings would be paid by  
236 meeting. The hope is to leverage the youth in any way the City needs  
237 them. Not a burden but as a resource to the City.

238  
239 Vice Chair James explained he would like to see the HRIEC have at  
240 least one student representative because he thought it has helped the  
241 Commission to stay in touch with what is really going on.

242  
243 Commissioner Macomber explained she liked this idea because if it  
244 does attract youths the Commission could still have that voice at the  
245 table and feel that value.

246  
247 Mr. Brooks indicated as written right now the proposal would not be  
248 limited to Roseville residents. The hope would be to get some buy in  
249 from City leadership, but the hope would be to bring it to the  
250 Commission have the Commission work through some of the details as  
251 well before bringing it to the Council.

252  
253 Vice Chair James thought by doing this the City might be able to find  
254 other students for the Commissions. He thought the idea was a good  
255 one and a better way to start and then to go from there.

256  
257 Mr. Brooks explained the hope is to reimagine how the City is  
258 engaging and this needs to be done with youth and adults as well. He  
259 noted staff has also been looking at more flexible Commission or  
260 Council structure that would not be so rigid for Commissioners and  
261 allow the Commissioners possible switch Commissions once a year  
262 rather than being stuck to a three-year commitment on one  
263 Commission.

264  
265 Vice Chair James explained it was important to remember that the  
266 Commission is evolving and that they are not getting to the ideal end.  
267 Looking at ways to involve and hear the community and to do that, he  
268 thought is all a part of that. He indicated when the Commissioners  
269 look at Code 205, he would like them to think about what Mr. Brooks

270 has talked about and maybe their mission or vision should be different  
271 than what is in Code 205 and what the Commission has been  
272 traditionally doing. He thought this is a good, positive thing.

273  
274 Commissioner Francke noted in his experience mission statements  
275 tend to be very broad and tend to be vague on purpose and they can  
276 encompass everything being discussed without any of the details of  
277 how to accomplish something.

278  
279 Vice Chair James thought the mission and vision statement should go  
280 along and be a part of Code 205, they should intertwine.

281  
282 Commissioner Francke did not think these are synonymous with scope  
283 because scope really defines more the issues the Commission wants to  
284 address and with or without methods. Even there, the Commission  
285 wants to be a little broader and not confine it too much.

286  
287 Commissioner Becker thought it was also helpful, especially for the  
288 new Commissioners, is the timing of Commission work. Having a  
289 mission and vision is really important and knowing there is a way,  
290 there is a point where new Commissioners come on and finding a way  
291 to make the Commission feel a little more organic in that.

- 292  
293
- Proclamation Display Case Ideas
  - Open Meeting Law and Communication with Commissioners
- 295 Mr. Brooks reminded Commissioners to send all information to him and he  
296 will pass the information onto other Commissioners.
- Envision Roseville – Open House on August 16 at the Skating Center
- 298 Mr. Brooks explained the August HRIEC meeting will be cancelled so the  
299 Commission can attend the open house.

300  
301 **Announcements**

302  
303 Commissioner Macomber explained July 22, 2023, from 2pm to 6pm is the seventy-fifth  
304 birthday of the City of Roseville and Arts in Roseville is putting on a day and working with the  
305 City on this. There will be music, several Eastern European singing groups, a drumming group,  
306 and dance groups and mostly just a time for people to come together and talk to each other,  
307 particularly long-term residents.

308  
309 **Future Agenda Items**

- a. Discuss Youth Commission Engagement
- b. Land Acknowledgement

312  
313 **Adjournment**

314

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315 Vice Chair James adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

316

317 Respectfully submitted,

318

319 Sue Osbeck

320 *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*