



**Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
Work Session
May 4, 2023
City Space, 100 5th Street NE, Charlottesville, VA 22902
6:30 pm**

Click [HERE](#) to access rebroadcasts of past Human Rights Commission meetings on YouTube.

Click [HERE](#) to access an archive of past Human Rights Commission work on the City website.

1. WELCOME

- a. CALL TO ORDER
 - i. Chair, Kathryn Laughon, called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm
- b. ROLL CALL
 - i. Jessica Harris
 - ii. Jeanette Abi-Nader
 - iii. Wolfgang Keppley
 - iv. Kathryn Laughon
 - v. Suzanne Lynn
- c. MISSION (recited by all): *Act as a strong advocate to justice and equal opportunity by providing citywide leadership and guidance in the area of civil rights.*

2. MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

- a. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - i. None
- b. COMMISSION RESPONSE TO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC
 - i. None

3. WORK SESSION

- a. HRC liaison planning
 - i. Kathryn has already sent out a list with meeting times
 - ii. Democratic Socialists Housing Committee meeting will be on Zoom May 17th at 7pm
 - iii. Commissioner asks about what exactly HRC liaisons will be doing with the meetings
 - 1. Goals will be to listen to hear about current issues and report them back to Commission both to stay educated and think about action items the HRC could do
 - 2. Liaisons would consistently attend assigned organization's meetings
 - iv. Commissioners pick meetings to attend:
 - 1. Jeanette: CRHA Resident Services Committee Meeting
 - 2. Wolfgang: Charlottesville Planning Commission
 - 3. Some Commissioners can attend certain meetings more infrequently
 - v. Some organizations' meeting times are not yet known, so Kathryn can

send out as updated list to the entire Commission as meeting times come in

1. Reach out to Emily Dreyfus for CLIHC meetings
 - a. There is a form on their website about interest in joining
 - b. CLIHC has long been interested in having an HRC liaison
- vi. Commissioner says that the DSA housing group goes door to door
- vii. Commissioner requests that sheet go on HRC drive online
 1. HRC collaborative work will eventually be on Teams, despite its occasional difficulties
- viii. Commissioner requests the creation of a document that lists Commissioners and the respective organization meetings they will be creating
 1. Suzanne will do this
 2. An HRC Team already exists, so Todd will test the platform by uploading a couple of these documents there
- b. Discussion of draft resolution regarding HRC housing advocacy priorities
 - i. Commissioner asks whether there are any talking points specifically that the Commission will be prioritizing
 1. Mary created a document briefly discussed last meeting about the HRC's housing discussions
 - a. Working toward ensuring substantially/decent affordable housing, pushing Council to enact policies that preserve racial and ethnic diversity, working to undo historical discrimination, etc.
 - b. Seem to be generally agreed upon; Mary is currently working on putting them into a resolution format to vote upon then post to the website
 - ii. This vote will be on the agenda during the next regular meeting
- c. New business
 - i. None
- d. Confirmation of next work session
 - i. 6/1/23 is the possible date of the next work session
 - ii. Next regular meeting will be in the same location at CitySpace

4. MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

- a. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - i. None
- b. COMMISSION RESPONSE TO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC
 - i. None

5. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

- a. Kathryn
 - i. Is going out with the DSA housing group; will report back
 1. There are 75 families in the area facing eviction this week
 2. Group will inform households of the current situation
 - ii. School of Nursing had a bench dedication the previous day honoring Black licensed practical nurses from segregation
 1. Was in front of McLeod Hall
 - iii. There was an article that went out today about how Phoenix is using the Charlottesville model to remove SROs from schools and adapt what

Charlottesville did

- b. Todd
 - i. Met with Victoria Horrock and Emily from Legal Aid Justice Center; they will start using the OHR's conference room space on the third Tuesdays of the month to do consultations because it is the day that the Charlottesville General District Court does its docket for evictions
 - c. Jeanette
 - i. Crescent Halls will be doing ribbon cutting on 6/5 at 3pm
 - ii. South First St is doing their ribbon cutting on 6/6 at 3pm
- 6. NEXT STEPS**
- a. Suzanne
 - i. Create active document of which Commissioners are assigned to attend which organizations' meetings
 - b. Todd
 - i. Test HRC Teams by uploading a couple documents about the liaisons
- 7. ADJOURN**
- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm