



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

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1. WELCOME

- a. CALL TO ORDER
 - i. Chair, Jessica Harris, called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm
- b. ROLL CALL
 - i. Jessica Harris
 - ii. Wolfgang Keppley (virtual)
 - iii. Kathryn Laughon
 - iv. Suzanne Lynn
 - v. Andrew Orban
- 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. Due to the scope of the agenda for the night's work session, the Commission will not receive virtual public comment; in-person members of the public are welcome to provide public comment.
 - ii. No public comment.
- b. COMMISSION RESPONSE TO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC
 - i. None

3. WORK SESSION

- a. Draft zoning advocacy letter
 - i. Jeanette was unable to be present for this meeting, but is willing to help if Commissioners discuss talking points during this meeting
 - ii. Commissioner discusses supporting the Charlottesville Low-Income Housing Coalition (CLIHC)'s letter and elevating points that require further attention
 - 1. Urging City Council to approve a code that will reduce exclusionary, racist zoning
 - 2. Five main asks in the letter that they would like included in the zoning code, and there are two things that need particular attention:
 - a. One is moving forward with original plan for sensitive areas (largely Black neighborhoods) and ensuring there are regulations that will preserve original homes,

- include density only if it is affordable, and prevent displacement
 - 3. Suggests simply that they recommend that Council proceed with the original plan for sensitive areas and focus on inclusionary zoning
- iii. Commissioner says there was a meeting including CLIHC members during which Joy Johnson proposed that “sensitive areas” be instead changed more appropriately to “anti-displacement” in the Ordinance, but this change is already happening
 - 1. Also says tax abatement is another large housing issue which Council should focus on to make sure everyone is covered
- iv. Commissioner asks what the most impactful things to add in the letter could be besides elevating what other organizations have already said
 - 1. Another Commissioner says since the Commission does not specialize in this topic, it should focus on elevating CLIHC’s suggestions
 - 2. CLIHC’s three main asks:
 - a. Prevent further displacement in historically Black neighborhoods by providing an anti-displacement zoning overlay
 - b. Allow more density in historically exclusionary neighborhoods
 - c. Expand affordability
 - 3. Commissioner suggests reusing these suggestions but framing them in the context of housing as a human right
 - 4. Planning Commission is getting ready to vote on the long document; City Council will likely vote before the end of the year
 - 5. Commissioner asks about the HRC additionally supporting some of the policies outlined in the Livable Cville Housing Coalition letter the HRC signed off on in July
- v. Director says the OHR can synthesize the points made then send them to Jeanette as a rough draft; can then bring it back incorporating feedback to the 10/19/23 regular meeting
 - 1. This meeting will take place in CitySpace instead of Carver Recreation due to a budget meeting cancellation
- vi. Kathryn volunteers to draft the points and send to Jeanette
- b. Action updates
 - i. Kathryn will send draft to Jeanette by 10/13/23 for a Martha’s Rules vote on 10/19/23
- c. New business
 - i. Chair presents Outreach & Administrative Specialist with gift, and Commissioners express gratitude for her work in the OHR, HRC, and community
 - ii. Outreach Specialist says there may a gathering on 10/13/23
 - 1. Commissioners discuss the possibility of allowing multiple Commissioners to be present at an event at a time
 - a. Commissioner says it should be allowed so long as there is no talk of HRC business
 - 2. Director will look confirm and report back

- iii. Director thanks Commissioners for feedback and productive dialogue after his response to the meeting from the previous regular meeting
 - 1. Met with Jessica, Inez Gonzalez, and Victoria to discuss next steps
 - 2. Invites Commissioners to have meetings with him and Jessica if they have further feedback for Inez and the PCOB
 - 3. This is an opportunity to explore what could be better in the future
 - 4. Chair adds that one-on-one meetings offer a less public opportunity to discuss this topics
 - 5. Commissioner asks about the possibility of Inez coming into an HRC meeting
 - a. This could be a possibility in the future, but should perhaps wait until later

4. MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

- a. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - i. Due to the scope of the agenda for the night's work session, the Commission will not receive virtual public comment; in-person members of the public are welcome to provide public comment.
 - ii. No public comment.
- b. COMMISSION RESPONSE TO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC
 - i. None

5. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

- a. None

6. NEXT STEPS

- a. Kathryn
 - i. Draft language for letter to Council about CLIHC's recommendations; send to Jeanette by 10/13/23
- b. Todd
 - i. Ask about multiple Commissioners attending a gathering if there is no discussion of HRC business

7. ADJOURN

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm