

MINUTES OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

A regular session of the Human Relations Commission was held at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall.

Members Attending: Holycross, Keller, Lewis, Major

Presiding Officer: Chairperson Sonia Holycross

Others Attending: City Staff

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting commenced at 6:00 p.m. by the Chairperson's call to order.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Major, February 20, 2025, minutes were approved by the Commission unanimously, having no corrections or additions to these minutes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The Commission members agreed to meet on August 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mr. Major noted that the recent police reports showed an imbalance in the number of arrests and citations. He inquired if this issue was discussed with Chief McKinney during the previous meeting, given his absence. Ms. Holycross responded that the HRC at the last meeting mentioned the problem to the Chief but suggested following up. Mr. Keller shared that he observed a disbalance in the numbers only in the previous few report. He added that the HRC should review the last several reports and determine if there is a trend. The Commission agreed to review the reports from the previous five months.

Mr. Keller and Ms. Holycross shared that many communities have recently installed all-inclusive playgrounds, which include sensory panels and toys for individuals with autism. They recommended that the City look into installing such playground equipment.

The Commission discussed starting the planning process of the Riverside Cemetery's Black Civil War Soldiers Historical Marker dedication ceremony. The HRC members will work on the details with the local historical society and history library members, and Salome Hekate will help organize the event.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tre Heflin-King, the chairperson of the Juneteenth Planning Committee, invited the HRC and Mayor Oda to the 2025 Juneteenth event. He also said that he would be stepping down from the chairperson's position of the Juneteenth Planning Committee. He plans to assist with the event and is seeking his replacement. The HRC members thanked him for his hard work all these years. To Mr. Major's question, Mr. Heflin-King responded that the planning committee is looking for volunteers for the event, especially for the Friday evening activities.

Ms. Holycross inquired if the HRC had been placing a booth at the Juneteenth event. Mr. Keller said that he has been putting up the HRC booth for the event and has been staffing it. He added that he would like to see others participate as well. Ms. Holycross asked Ms. Hekate to find out if the City would like to send their representative to share the booth with the HRC if they would like to spread information about current projects, gather public opinion, or share job opportunities.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.