

MINUTES
JUNEAU HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
MARCH 17, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm.
- a. Present: Haifa Foroughi, Alison Gottschlich, Wendy K'ah Skáahluwaa Todd, and Mary Wegner
 - b. Absent: Lance Mitchell
 - c. Support: N/A

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the March 3, 2026 Meeting: The Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NON-AGENDA ITEMS: No one from the public was present.

V. AGENDA

1. Standing Agenda Topics:

a. FY26 Budget:

- 1) Treasurer Report: Alison did not have anything new to report other than noting the need to finalize the financial aspects associated with our upcoming Townhall.
- 2) Community Engagement Project: Since our last meeting, Assembly Member Brooks shared in an email that he will not be able to sponsor our Community Engagement budget request to work with CatapultEd to implement a Community Engagement project focused on identifying barriers to engagement of underrepresented voices and voices of people who do not know how to or why to engage with CBJ. After our last meeting, Assembly Member Brooks noted that due to budget concerns at the city, he has been asked to make recommendations to reduce budgets and will not be able to support a request from a CBJ commission to add to the budget. Additionally, a request for a budget item was premature since CBJ now has a new department focused on communication and community engagement and we had not yet explored how their expertise and staff could be leveraged to support our project.

Haifa and Mary met with CBJ Communication and Engagement Director Ashley Heimbinger and Engagement Specialist Phil Huebschen to learn about the new department and to share information about our Community Engagement project. Ashley joined our meeting tonight to provide an overview of the new CBJ Communication and Engagement Department. She shared a presentation that showed how the new department is using data to increase engagement from the community within CBJ commissions and she shared data on how the public engages with information from the CBJ. There is overlap between the work of the new CBJ Communication and Engagement Department and our Community Engagement project. Haifa and Mary, as JHRC project leads for our Community Engagement project, will continue to meet with Ashley and her team to further explore ways we can collaborate to meet our objectives.

Ashley shared that she and her team are also working with the Systemic Racism and Review Committee (SRRC) on projects with a similar goal and suggested that JHRC and SRRC could both be part of the discussions moving forward. This was noted as a positive direction, since we had been wanting to meet with the SRRC for some time to discuss common goals.

- 3) Strategic Plan: Our Strategic Plan is on target and moving forward. Nothing specific was discussed.
2. Celebrating Black History Month 2027: Nothing to report currently.
3. Townhall: Our *Fostering Safety, Dignity, and Human Rights in Our Community Townhall* will be held on Friday, April 10th at 5:30 pm in the Egan Hall Seminar Room on the UAS campus with Dr. Judi Brown Clarke as our keynote speaker. Wendy shared that the agreement to use the room at UAS has been finalized, and that she has secured two of three panelist, Carin Silkaitis and Judith Ramos. Wendy is working on confirming a third panelist. Wendy will be the panel moderator and will work with Haifa to finalize the questions to be discussed during the panel.

Today Haifa and Mary received an email from CBJ Communication Specialist Tasha Elizarde with some questions she has that will allow her to help promote the event. Wendy will follow-up with Tasha to provide the requested information.

Townhall To Do List

Wendy:

- a. Gift for Dr. Brown Clarke: Wendy will arrange with Di to see if she can use the CBJ P-card to purchase a gift valued at \$250. The gift is in lieu of providing an honorarium for her keynote.
- b. Snacks and Water: Wendy will work with Di to see if she can purchase cookies and water with the CBJ P-card, and our estimated cost for this budget item was \$75.
- c. Panelist Gift: Wendy will work with Di to see if she can use the CBJ P-card to purchase three \$25 coffee cards to give as a thank you to our three panelists.
- d. Signage Tripods: Wendy will work with Dean Silkaitis to see if we can borrow two or three tripods to hold signage for the event.
- e. CBJ Communication Support: As noted previously, Wendy will work with Tasha at CBJ and provide her with information to promote the event through CBJ communication channels.
- f. Panel Questions: As noted previously, Wendy will work with Haifa to develop questions for the panel discussion.

Alison:

- a. Poster Printing: Alison will work with Di to have 40 of our posters printed through the CBJ printshop, and then she will deliver these to JAHC to have them distributed through their poster service. We have budgeted \$40 to use the JHRC poster service.
- b. Signage Printing: Alison will work with Di to have the CBJ printshop provide two or three of our posters enlarged and printed on a firm surface so they can be used as signage for the event.

Haifa:

- a. Panel Questions: As noted previously, Haifa will work with Wendy to develop questions for the panel discussion.
- b. Panel Table: Haifa will provide a tablecloth for the panel table.

Lance:

- a. Radio Promotion: Lance will work with the local radio stations to secure on-air spots with Dr. Brown Clarke and Wendy.
- b. Social Media: Lance will promote the event on social media.

Mary:

- a. Panel Table: Mary will purchase flowers for the panel table, and the estimated cost for this budget item is \$50.

Our planned purchases are well within our allocated funding of \$750.

4. Commission Engagement Resolution: Haifa learned that actions had been taken within CBJ and that our resolution is progressing through the process.
5. Joint JHRC and SRRC Meeting: No update on setting a joint meeting; however, we may be able to accomplish this goal by collaborating with the SRRC and the CBJ Communication and Engagement Department on our Community Engagement project.
6. Personal Safety Training in Partnership with Perseverance Theatre: Not discussed at this meeting.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT: No one from the public was present.

II. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

1. Tuesday, April 7, 2026 from 5:00-6:00 pm via Zoom.
2. Tuesday, April 21, 2026 from 5:00-6:00 pm via Zoom.
3. Tuesday, May 5, 2026 from 5:00-6:00 pm viz Zoom.

III. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:01 pm.