

Accomplishments from the May 16, 2024 Meeting of the Human Relations Commission of Asheville (HRCA)

(Recap by First Tuesday)

Present: Alma Atkins (Chair), Harvey Harold, John Miall, Susan Sacco

Absent: Daniel Young (Vice-chair), Crystal Reid, Nnweyna Smith

Approval of Annual Report:

Discussed and noted minor corrections for the 2023 annual report, ensuring it will be finalized for approval when a quorum is present.

Retreat Planning:

Scheduled a retreat for June 29, 2024, to discuss key actions and priorities for the year, aiming to provide a structured environment for strategic planning.

Future Meeting Preparations:

- Planned to invite a housing representative to future meetings to further discuss and address the housing crisis.
- Decided to invite a consultant on accessibility for disabilities to provide insights and recommendations.

Identified Future Agenda Items:

- Outlined several important topics for future discussion, including:
 - Training in the City-mandated equity and inclusion process.
 - Developing an accountability pipeline for the complaints process.
 - Creation of a volunteer mentorship program for returning citizens.
 - Public safety initiatives.
 - Fair and equitable housing strategies.
 - Addressing environmental and climate concerns.

While the May 16, 2024 meeting involved significant discussions, it primarily focused on planning and setting the stage for future actions rather than taking immediate steps to address objectives. The planning of the retreat, preparation for future meetings with key stakeholders, and identification of agenda items are foundational steps towards addressing the commission's goals. However, concrete actions to directly address their objectives will need to be a focus in subsequent meetings and initiatives.