

## MINUTES

COMMISSION ON DIVERSITY AWARENESS  
WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 20, 2026

[VIRTUAL TEAMS MEETING](#)  
211 WEST ASPEN AVENUE  
1:30 P.M.

### 1. Call to Order

Chair Hernandez called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

*NOTE: One or more Commission Members may be in attendance telephonically or by other technological means.*

MANNY HERNANDEZ, CHAIR - present  
SANDRA DARLING, VICE CHAIR - absent  
CARMENLITA CHIEF - present

SILINA MARTINEZ - present  
JUSTIN MALLETT - absent  
ANGELICA SANCHEZ - present  
VACANT

### 3. Mission Statement and Land Acknowledgment

Chair Hernandez read the Mission Statement and Land Acknowledgement.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

*A commission to foster support, respect, awareness and appreciation of diversity among all citizens of Flagstaff.*

#### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*The Commission on Diversity Awareness humbly acknowledges the ancestral homelands of this area's Indigenous nations and original stewards. These lands, still inhabited by Native descendants, border mountains sacred to Indigenous peoples. We honor them, their legacies, their traditions, and their continued contributions. We celebrate their past, present, and future generations who will forever know this place as home.*

### 4. Upcoming Opportunities and Announcements

Chair Hernandez spoke of the upcoming Chinese New Year Celebrations happening downtown.

Commissioner Sanchez spoke of the Bilingual Beginnings program at the Library featuring American Sign Language, Spanish, and Navajo story time.

### 5. Open Call to the Public

*The Commission cannot act upon items presented during the Public Participation portion of the Agenda. Individual Commission members may ask questions of the public but are prohibited by the Open Meeting Law from discussion or considering the item among themselves until the item is officially placed on the Agenda. Each public comment or presentation will be limited to four (4) minutes.*

None.

### 6. Approval of Minutes

#### A. Approval of minutes from the October 17, 2025 meeting

Commissioner Sanchez noted a correction in the minutes under item 6, a misspelling of Commissioner. Moved by Commissioner Sanchez and Seconded by Commissioner Martinez to approve the minutes with the correction as noted. The vote was unanimous.

## **7. Proclamations**

### **A. Proclamation review for Women's History Month**

Deputy City Clerk Georganna Staskey presented the proclamation for review. Commissioner Sanchez noted that Vice-Chair Darling had invited the Women's Leadership Group to attend; Ms. Staskey will follow up to confirm their attendance.

Commissioner Martinez moved to approve the proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Sanchez. The motion carried unanimously.

The Commission resumed discussion at approximately 2:04 p.m.

Commissioner Hernandez concurred with Councilmember House's suggestion, made during her update, to include a call to action within the proclamation. The Commission collaboratively drafted language encouraging community members to learn about, reflect upon, and participate in programs and events that honor women's history and promote continued progress toward equity.

Following finalization of the revised language, Commissioner Sanchez moved to reapprove the proclamation as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chief and carried unanimously.

## **8. Discussion Items**

### **A. Outreach on the Regional Plan 2045 Update**

City Clerk Stacy Saltzburg reported that staff is working to formalize materials related to the Regional Plan, finalize details, and share information with the community. She noted that the election is scheduled for May 19, that ballots will be mailed, and that no polling places will be available. She also indicated that staff could attend a future meeting to provide additional information.

Chair Hernandez commented that this would be a valuable use of the Commission's time and an opportunity to review materials.

Commissioner Sanchez concurred, noting that reviewing program materials falls within the Commission's purview and expressing a desire to be involved.

Commissioner Chief also expressed support for this approach.

## **9. Reports**

### **A. Updates from Working Groups**

#### **i. Rainbow Crosswalk Update**

Commissioner Sanchez shared information regarding a recent outreach effort conducted downtown to gather community input on potential locations for a rainbow crosswalk. She reported strong public interaction and positive engagement and noted that she looks forward to reviewing the collected feedback with the Commission at a future meeting.

ii. Library Working Group

Commissioner Sanchez provided an update on the Library Working Group, highlighting the successful launch of the monthly "Bilingual Beginnings" story time series, which drew strong attendance and will continue with rotating languages such as American Sign Language, Spanish, and more. She noted upcoming media outreach with the Arizona Daily Sun to promote the program and shared that the group continues to focus on inclusivity and community belonging through partnerships, including work with Coconino Community College. Additional projects in progress include planning a June Drag Story Hour and pursuing grant funding for an LGBTQ+ oral history project, with a key goal of acquiring a sound booth. Commissioners expressed strong support and offered continued assistance.

**B. Updates from Council Liaison**

Councilmember House thanked everyone for joining. She mentioned the March 3rd Council Meeting regarding a citizen petition about potential ICE activity, specifically requesting the City deny access to City-owned facilities for immigration enforcement. She encouraged the Commission to participate in the conversation and invited Commissioners to share concerns or experiences. She noted that while such issues are rare locally, the Commission has previously engaged with statewide or national topics, like Black Lives Matter.

She emphasized that commissioners should feel empowered to bring forward important topics, offer recommendations, or provide opinions to Council, and encouraged placing such items on future agendas for discussion. Finally, she referenced the recently approved Women's History Month proclamation, suggesting the Commission consider adding language to encourage community engagement with related events or programming, making the proclamation more actionable. This concluded her updates and the Commission returned to the Proclamation item at approximately 2:04 p.m.

**C. Updates from Staff Liaison**

Ms. Staskey thanked everyone for attending and for their patience while the city works to permanently fill the staff liaison position. She reported that within the next two to three months, they hope to have someone trained and ready to take over full-time, providing the commission with a consistent liaison. She noted that she is still overseeing the program as a whole, and is available to answer questions in her absence.

She also reminded commissioners to keep an eye on the working calendar and weekly listserv, and to feel free to submit agenda items in the future. She encouraged looking several months ahead to allow time for staff input and subject matter experts so recommendations can be prepared for council.

Finally, Ms. Staskey shared that the Public Affairs has been posting vacancies on social media and is working to increase awareness of boards and commissions to encourage broader public participation. She emphasized the importance of bringing community voices into specialty groups and commissions.

**10. Informational To/From Commissioners/Staff and Future Agenda Item Requests**

Chair Hernandez requested additional information and discussion regarding the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement item potentially going before Council, suggesting it be placed on the Commission agenda if it advances beyond March 3. Ms. Staskey clarified that the item stems from a citizen petition and that Council will first decide whether to move it forward for further discussion; if so, it will return for a broader conversation and be brought back to the Commission. Hernandez thanked her for the clarification and agreed the topic is important to revisit if it progresses.

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting of the Commission on Diversity Awareness was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.