

MINUTES

Ogden Community Engagement and Opportunity Commission
Seventh Floor – Conference Room and via Zoom
2549 Washington Blvd,
Ogden, Utah 84401

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025 – 4:30 PM

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

MONICA GIL, AMIR JACKSON, LUCIA MADRIGAL,
FERNANDO MORALES, AND ARACELY WARNER

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:

VERNON JACKSON, AND JULIANA WOODBURY

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

HAILLEE VANPATTEN

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

DIANA LOPEZ, AND BREXTON OLESKY-LEE

The meeting was held virtually via zoom with an anchor location on the 3rd floor Council Work Room of the Municipal Building.

Chair Morales welcomed the public and opened the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the Ogden Community Engagement and Opportunity Commission Meeting – February 12, 2025

No vote was held due to a lack of quorum.

NEW BUSINESS:

CITY COUNCIL RECOGNITIONS – APRIL; AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH / EARTH MONTH; VOTE:

Mr. Brexton Olesky-Lee updated the Commission that Dr. Rosemary Lesser was out of town during the February recognition date, and shared that she would have to be recognized on a later date.

Chair Morales reminded the Commission that Love Better and Catholic Community Services had already been recognized; however, the Ogden School District Family Teen Centers had not yet.

Mr. Olesky-Lee shared that he had reached out to a few schools about getting a list of students on the spectrum to potentially be recognized as the Commission had discussed previously.

Commissioner A. Jackson asked if the Commission could recognize two individuals or organizations.

Chair Morales answered that the Commission could recognize two individuals or organizations.

Commissioner A. Jackson asked if there is a list of individuals or organizations who had already been recognized.

Mr. Olesky-Lee answered that there was a list and he would add it to the shared recognitions document.

Commissioner Gil shared information about the Ogden School District Family and Teen Centers, noting that the centers focus on helping homeless students and family members reach support and basic needs.

Commissioner A. Jackson shared that he supported recognizing the Family and Teen Centers as well as students on the spectrum.

Chair Morales reminded the Commission that there would be no vote held due to a lack of quorum but summarized that the Commission had suggested recognizing the Family and Teen Centers and potentially students on the spectrum.

No vote was held due to a lack of quorum.

CITY COUNCIL RECOGNITIONS – MAY; ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH / MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH / JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH / NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH / MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH / TEACHER APPRECIATION / SPEECH AND HEARING MONTH; RECOMMENDATIONS:

Commissioner Madrigal suggested recognizing the East Ridge Elementary Director of the Immersion Language program.

Chair Morales suggested discussing that further in the next meeting.

Ms. Diana Lopez suggested recognizing the Schools for the Deaf and Blind.

Commissioner A. Jackson suggested a broad proclamation to recognize the role of teachers in the community and offered to draft a proposal for City Council to be discussed at the next meeting.

Chair Morales shared his support of the proposal and asked to have it added to the next agenda.

Commissioner A. Jackson suggested recognizing the Jewish Synagogue.

Mr. Olesky-Lee suggested recognizing the Ogden School District Teachers Association for the work they do representing teachers.

EXECUTIVE TEAM NOMINATIONS; BREXTON OLESKY-LEE

Mr. Olesky-Lee reviewed the nominations process to the Commission. He shared that the Commission had until March 25th, 2025 to send nominations to Diana Lopez. He went on to explain that each Nominee would then be listed on a document that would be sent out to the Commission who would have one week to vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE:

Commissioner A. Jackson shared that he was working on a social media rollout to highlight community members in certain areas that connect with the culture in Ogden. He explained that this would begin in May on a weekly basis until December. He asked for input from the Commission to highlight the unsung heroes of Ogden.

Chair Morales suggested library staff members, case managers at the Lantern House, and members of the individuals from the Police Department.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE:

Commissioner Warner shared that the functional committee would be meeting soon to come up with decisions on how to move forward with cultural events.

CONNECTING EMPLOYMENT FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE:

Commissioner Madrigal shared that the City seems to be interested in the survey but still needs time to reach a decision. She asked the Commission for follow-ups on contact emails and asked for suggestions on other organizations or people to reach out to.

YOUTH OUTREACH FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE:

Commissioner Gil shared that the functional committee would be meeting to finalize the special needs resource list and begin a civic engagement presentation that will be sent to students.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

MS. DIANA LOPEZ:

Ms. Lopez thanked the Commission for having her and shared that she would reach out to the Commission with answers to any questions that she was unable to answer at the meeting.

MR. BREXTON OLESKY-LEE:

Mr. Olesky-Lee shared that the Commission's table cloth had arrived and asked the Commission to send him events that they want to table at so he could make reservations.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

CHAIR MORALES:

Chair Morales shared that the Commission was invited to the Marshal White Center Event and invited the Commission to a mental health training event on April 20th.

COMMISSIONER A. JACKSON:

Commissioner A. Jackson expressed gratitude for the Commission and the work it is accomplishing.

MS. DIANA LOPEZ:

Ms. Lopez shared that the Police Department was currently holding the Citizens Police Academy and shared an update on the Summer events being planned.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no comments from the public.

ADJORN AT 5:38 PM.



BREXTON OLESKY-LEE, INTERN

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Approved: April 9th, 2025