

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-120

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Phan, Vice Chair Hays, Commissioners Perelman, Gonazalez, Singh

COMMISSIONERS REMOTE: None

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Rashid

STAFF PRESENT: Christy Stangland, Donna Adair, Ruth Blaw, Saada Hilts, Andrew Ndayambaje, Gysel Galaviz, Douglas Raiford, Department of Parks & Community Services

COUNCIL LIAISON: Not present

POLICE LIAISON: Not present

GUEST SPEAKERS: Douglas Raiford, DEI Program Administrator, Department of Parks & Community Services

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gysel Galaviz

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair Phan who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

At the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Perelman, who joined at 6:07 p.m., and Commissioner Rashid.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the March 2nd minutes was made by Commissioner Hays. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Singh and the motion carried unanimously.

4. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

This was a special meeting for equity training that did not include public comment.

5. COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

This was a special meeting for equity training that did not include Council or Ex-Officio member.

7. INFORMATION FOR THE COMMISSION

Human Services Manager, Ruth Blaw, provided staff reports to the commission including: (1) Councilmember Robinson is in process of selecting a new commissioner to fill the vacant position, (2) Commissioner elections will be moved from January to June to align with other Boards & Commissions, (3) The application period for the Human Services general fund are now open through April 6, 2026, and (4) Upcoming meetings April-June are particularly important due to commission preparation, review, and deliberations for human services funding.

8. OLD BUSINESS – None

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Equity in Funding Training

Ruth Blaw shared remarks on behalf of Councilmember Robinson thanking the commission and emphasizing the importance of the equity training for the human service funding process they are about to begin. Ruth Blaw facilitated an ice breaker for commissioners and welcomed the trainer for the equity training, PCS DEI Program Administrator, Douglas Raiford.

Douglas Raiford guided the commissioners in a training that (1) explored how implicit bias operates, (2) examined its effects on community organization funding, and (3) developed practical tools and strategies to identify and eliminate bias in the decision-making process.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Phan adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.