

Advisory Committee of Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Human Rights

Minutes for the Wednesday, May 26th, 2026 Meeting

6PM | Council Chambers

Members Present: Member Robinson, Vice Chair Boyes, Member Baker, Member Burke, Member Fallon, Member Furrow and Chair Brydon

Non Voting Members: None

Members not Present: Mark Roth (excused)

City of Bangor Staff Present: Assistant City Manager, Courtney O'Donnell

Call to Order

- Call to order 6PM
- Roll Call

Committee Business

Member Baker was present at the workshop where council discussed ACREIHRs recommendation to adopt a specific standalone ordinance regarding sidewalk accessibility. Member Baker recalls the council being on board with the recommendation and notes the only edits made were minor language corrections to eliminate repetitiveness. Vice Chair Boyes attended the council meeting and notes the recommendation passed 9-0. Councilor Beck states the recommendation appears to be in full effect.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Council Direction Updates:

Chair Brydon met with Chair Hawes to determine how the ACREIHR can best support and collaborate with Bangor City Council. It was determined that quarterly updates from ACREIHR to council via Gov Ops workshops regarding current objectives is preferred. Allowing the ACREIHR to receive feedback and or updates from the council. Councilor Beck recommends the committee waits to attend a Gov Ops meeting until July so the council may prioritize the budget. The ACREIHR intends to attend the first Gov Ops meeting in July.

Language Accessibility Plan:

Assistant City Manager ODonnell states the survey sent out demonstrated a need in public safety, public health and public transportation (specifically the airport). Bangor PD will launch a pilot program using Language Line to determine the platform's effectiveness in regard to language accessibility. City Manager ODonnell is working to identify ASL and neurodivergent training resources to be implemented. Assistant City Manager ODonnell intends to amend the language access plan and present it to the ACREIHR for feedback.

Legislative Committee Update:

A new legislative committee chaired by Councilor Clarkson who will be attending the ACREIHR's next meeting to discuss the new committee and how the ACREIHR can best collaborate and support. Councilor Beck states the new committee aims to ensure Bangor is well connected and advocated for statewide. Assistant City Manager ODonnell mentions the Legislative Committee is made up of only councilors.

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The ACREIHR Web Page:

Vice Chair Boyes recommends an inquiry box be created. Chair Brydon suggests monthly posts regarding important calendar events and or topics of interest that align with ACREIHRs mission (etc.). Member Robinson asks, what are the goals of the webpage? Chair Brydon replies it is important Bangor is aware the ACREIHR exists and is here to support the city. Homework: research and determine the intent of the website and brainstorm content ideas for July and future months.

Upcoming Event - 2026 Bangor Pride Parade and Festival:

The event takes place June 27th, 2026 on the Bangor Waterfront. The ACREIHR is on a waitlist for a table. Volunteers - Member Burke and Member Fallon. Vice Chair Boyes recommends we get involved in the parade. Vice Chair Boyes will submit an application to be considered for the parade. Member Furrow is wondering about involvement in other parades. Member Fallon mentions Recovery Pollooza may be an event to attend which takes place in September.

Council Liaison Update:

- May 11th - a proclamation was presented regarding Older Americans Month (May). The proclamation celebrated more than 400,00 Mainers who have contributed to Maine's local economy and workforce. The theme - "Champion Your Health".
- The only change made to the sidewalk ordinance recommendation was the phrase at the end of the second sentence - "and access support based engagement (see above)" was removed as it was already stated.
- Bangor Beautiful will be accepting a tree donation. The trees will be planted on the public esplanade on Main Street.
- Six different grants through the Cultural Commission will be awarded to the American Institute of Graphic Arts, the Bangor Ballet, Bangor Beautiful, Bangor Community Theater, Bangor Historical Society and Maine Academy of Modern Music. None of which pertain to fixed assets.
- Potential ratification of the acceptance of \$685,000 in grant funds for the Bangor Rental Assistance Program. 42 households are supported by the program.
- The 2nd reading of the Housing Committee is upcoming. Applications should soon be made available to the public.
- \$80,000 from Maine General will be accepted for HIV treatment and early intervention services. An additional \$80,000 - totalling a \$160,000 donation.
- Members for the Advisory Committee on Homeless will be appointed 5/27 - 9 members total and 3 of which have lived experience. The committee's meeting charge is to create a data and evidence driven strategic plan for the city's response to homelessness.
- A resolution will be brought forward via the infrastructure committee regarding safe streets for all road users. Ensuring safety as well as equitability and positioning Bangor for future funding allocated to road safety. The goal is to eliminate traffic related deaths and serious injuries by 2036.

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- Member Fallon asked if the inquiries sent to council from citizens regarding speed bumps on Davis Road have been considered.
 - Assistant City Manager ODonnell mentions there is a data collection process to be followed and she will send an update via email regarding the assessment of Davis Road.
- Council intends to discuss employee authority and immigration matters 5/27.
- The dedication of Talbot Trail takes place @11:30 5/30.

Meeting Adjourned

Chair Brydon motions to adjourn, Member Baker so moved and Member Fallon 2nds.