

**Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2021**

Members Appearing Electronically: Sarah Hartman, Jenni Braaten, Stephanie Holtorf, Goutham Putta, Dan Mueller, Miguel Garate, Laura Helle, City Liaison, Trish Wiechmann and City Council representative, Jeff Austin

Absent: Desahna Belden

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic and restrictions on meeting in groups, the meeting was held via a Zoom conference call. Vice-Chair Commissioner Hartman called the meeting to order at 6:23 pm with quorum present.

1. Adopt/Approve Agenda – Commissioner Spyhalski motioned to approve and Commissioner Mueller seconded the motion to approve the meeting agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Meeting minutes – Commissioner Garate motioned to approve and Commissioner Holtorf seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes from December.
3. Budget – Current operating budget for the 2021 year is \$5,000. The ongoing membership to Welcome America is \$1,500 and will be paid, leaving the AHRC with \$3,500 for the remainder of this calendar year.

New Business

4. Election of Officers – Commissioners Hartman and Braaten were nominated and accepted the nomination to serve as co-chairs. Both Commissioners ran unopposed and will serve as co-chairs for the 2021 year. Commissioner Holtorf agreed to be secretary and ran unopposed and will serve in this capacity for the 2021 calendar year.
5. Review of MLK Event – Overall, there were 70 people in attendance. This was much higher than in the previous years. Discussion on it was two hours in length and it did become a bit too long. The response has been positive and participants seem to want to do more after the discussion.
6. Write on Race – Commissioner Spyhalski discussed the possibility of bringing in the Greater Mankato Diversity Council for the journaling on race. The cost is \$9,600 which is more than the yearly AHRC budget, thus additional partnerships, grants, or other funding sources would be needed. After more discussion, it was decided to create a subcommittee of Commissioners Spyhalski, Holtorf, and Braaten to continue the development of this endeavor.
7. Yearly Planning – There may be an opportunity to partner for PRIDE in June with the Arts Council for a street event. Likewise, the Arts Council is potentially bringing in James Hormel for National Coming Out Day in the fall and it is a possible point of collaboration. Due to the

ongoing COVID pandemic, the number and type of events will need to be evaluated as time moves forward.

8. Podcast Subgroup – Nothing to report at this time but hope to have more information after the subgroup can meet again.

Roundtable

Commissioner Spyhalski shared there is a panel discussion with the Austin Police and Fire Department as well as the County Sheriff on Tuesday, February 2 at 6:30 pm. This has been organized by the United Congregational Church social justice group and all AHRC members are invited.

With no further business, Commissioner Braaten moved and was seconded by Commissioner Mueller to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm

Respectfully submitted.

Jenni Braaten
Secretary