

**Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2021**

Members Appearing via Zoom: Miguel Garate, Jenni Braaten, Sarah Hartman, Laura Helle, Stephanie Holtorf, Vickie Spyhalski, An Le, Varinh Van Vugt, Jeff Austin and Trish Wiechmann.

Absent: Lia Culbert

Commissioner Hartman called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM with quorum present via Zoom.

1. Adopt/Approve Agenda – Commissioner Spyhalski motioned to adopt and approve the reading of the agenda. Commissioner Le seconded to adopt and approve the reading of the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Garate motioned to adopt and approve the reading of the minutes. Commissioner Le seconded to adopt and approve the reading of the minutes from August 23, 2021. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Budget Report – City Liaison Wiechmann – \$2500 earmarked for Write on Race, \$65 co-sponsor dunk tank, \$162.50 Co-sponsorship for Minority Business Tour, \$125 for Commissioners to attend Write on Race. Remaining budget: \$479.70

Unfinished Business:

4. Welcoming Week Recap
 - City Liaison Wiechmann – We received a lot of good feedback about Welcoming Week. There were more events, great media coverage and higher attendance at these events.
 - Commissioner Helle – There was a lot of media coverage this year, which was great to see!
 - Commissioner Holtorf – Meeting in June and July helped to get more events planned. Having the deadline to have events in by also helped.
5. Write on Race Journaling Project
 - Commissioner Spyhalski – first session went well with attendance close to 40 to 45 people; prompts were sent out Sunday, September 26th for the next session in October.
 - Commissioner Holtorf – We should announce that the books and journals are available.

Other Business:

6. Remaining Funds
 - Zonta – \$62.50 help sponsor an ad each year in the Herald in December for Domestic Violence awareness. Will discuss again when Commissioner Culbert is here.
 - Day of the Dead – There is an altar and service for a two-day celebration. Requesting \$300 from the Commission. Commissioner Helle moved to approve \$300 for Day of the Dead. Commissioner Braaten seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Round table:

- Commissioners Spyhalski and Garate: Human Rights Commission – we would like a brochure to pass around and would like Commissioners being more visible at events. We would like to be present and tell who we are and what we do.
- Commissioner Helle – We would like to have one again in 2 or 3 languages that states who we are, when we meet, our mission statement and how to contact the State of Minnesota Human Rights Commission. We would like name tags.
- City Liaison Wiechmann – In the past we have had a brochure in Spanish and English. Will send out our old brochure to use as a template.
- Commissioner Garate – on October 27 there is an event with baskets of food. Commissioner Garate will send out the information about Day of the Dead.
- January 17, 2022 – Martin Luther King, Jr. last event of Write on Race. Commissioner Spyhalski – thinking about doing a panel. Have not done much planning with that. Bukata's idea was to invite the public and funders.

Next meeting will be in person next month on Tuesday, October 26 at 5:30 PM.

Commissioner Holtorf moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Helle seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

With no further business identified, the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Holtorf
Secretary