

**Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2021**

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

Absent: Lia Culbert, Miguel Garate

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

1. Adopt/Approve Agenda – Commissioner Helle 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 Van Vugt motioned to adopt and approve the reading of the minutes. Commissioner Spyhalski seconded to adopt and approve the reading of the minutes from October 26, 2021. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Budget Report – After putting the \$300 towards the Day of the Dead, we have \$179.70 leftover. Approved Rural Equity from HRC \$50 per person for 3 people for a total of \$150. The leftover afterwards will be \$29.70. Budget for 2022 approved for \$6,500 (\$1,500 will go towards Welcoming America Annual dues).

Unfinished Business:

4. Write on Race Journaling Project
 - Commissioner Spyhalski – going to split tables up more so it's easier to hear. And ask that people speak up into the microphone.
5. Other Business:
 - Zonta – City Liaison Wiechmann spoke with Cheryl and they are doing 16 days of Domestic Violence Awareness with the Post Bulletin Online. They are requesting \$100 towards that as we have done in the past. Commissioner Helle motioned to approve spending remaining funds (\$29.70) towards Zonta. Commissioner Le second the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The rest of the \$100 will come out of the City Liaison Wiechmann's Human Resources Budget.
 - 2022 Social Justice Book Club – We would like to help lead discussions for the book club. Discussed possible options for Commissioners Le, Helle and Van Vugt.
 - 2021 Rural Minnesota Equity Summit – Attendees: Commissioners Varinh, Laura, and Miguel will be attending virtually 7:30 AM to 1 PM on November 30 and December 1.
 - Pride 2022 Plans: The initial 5-mile route has been signed off on by the Chief of Police. The Street Committee (of the UCC) has yet to approve the route. If they don't approve it,

an alternate route will be re-submitted. The HRC would like to put on a Pride Event on during the 5-mile Event. The route starts and ends at UCC Church. Roxi will perform right after. Last year, Mayo wanted to be involved, so they may be involved this year. The date of the event is set for June 11, 2022. Other contributors could be the Hormel Institute, Hormel Foods and Riverland.

6. Round table:

- Commissioner Helle – has kept in contact via email to state HRC about reaching out to Asian Community. Not available right now but hoping to in the future. Commissioner Van Vugt said there was recently a Minneapolis proclamation that the local Police Dept is separate from the Immigration Department. She would like to have a similar communication or a proclamation in Austin. Commissioner Helle thinks that Mower County had a policy in 2011 about not prosecuting victim's immigration status. Commissioner Helle and Vickie will reach out to contacts and Aaron Jones to see if we have something like that in place already.
- AAUW – fundraiser for January 8, 2022 at 7 PM. This is a fundraiser for scholarships for non-traditional students at Riverland.
- Our next meeting is December 28th @ 5:30 PM.

Commissioner Le moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Van Vugt seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

With no further business identified, the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Holtorf, Secretary