

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

Members Appearing via Zoom: Jenni Braaten, Lia Culbert, Sarah Hartman, Stephanie Holtorf, Vickie Spyhalski, An Le, Trish Wiechmann and Jeff Austin

Absent: Miguel Garate, Laura Helle, Varinh Van Vugt

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

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 Le motioned to adopt and approve the reading of the minutes. Commissioner Spyhalski seconded to adopt and approve the reading of the minutes from Nov 23, 2021. Motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

3. MLK Day:
 - Commissioner Spyhalski – United Methodist Church will host an event on MLK Day at noon in person. We will also host the Write on Race final session on MLK Day. The first hour will be a wrap up (6 to 7 pm) and the last hour (7 to 8 pm) will be a panel of community leaders. Get the word out via Press Release, Facebook, put on the Chamber calendar.
 - City Liaison Wiechmann – MLK Riverland plans: Dani Heiny sent the updated flyer that can now be circulated. We are co-hosting the Riverland event at 12 to 1 pm via Zoom on Wednesday January 19th. There will be a motivational speaker of Unity, Service, and Justice. Riverland wants to collaborate with us as much as possible in 2022 and they are interested in another Write on Race if there is enough interest.
4. Reports:
 - 2021 Rural Minnesota Equity Summit – Attendees: Commissioners Vugt, Laura, and Miguel attended virtually 7:30 am to 1 pm on November 30th and December 1st (No update given yet).
 - Intro to Race Equity Summit – Commissioner Culbert attended. There were breakout sessions and information sent ahead of time. Topics discussed included: GIA loans promised to veterans during World War II, red lining, and covenant laws. Commissioner Culbert wonders if there are still covenants in Mower County. A house built in 1952 sold last year in Mower County with covenant stated no people of color could purchase houses in the neighborhood. Met Mayor of city north of St. Paul – was interested in hearing about our Human Rights Commission because his city is trying to form their own HRC. The conference was a place to deliberatively talk about race.

Commissioner Hartman – will look into covenants in Mower County with some realtors in town. City Liaison Wiechmann will ask someone from Planning and Zoning if there are any covenant laws still in place in Mower County.

- Name Badges – haven't heard back from all Commissioners yet about name and pronouns. One left to reply, but will move forward with ordering.

5. Other Business:

- 2022 Meeting Schedule – We will go back to our original day and time starting January with the 4th Monday at 5:30 pm.
- Start thinking about elections of Chair, Cochair, and Secretary for next meeting.
- Early thoughts on 2022 focus/events:
 - Pride June 2022 – There will be a race 5 pm at UCC and Roxi will be there as well. Riverland, HI, Hormel Foods HProud, and Land Home want to assist. We will continue to plan. Looking into sweat wicking t-shirts because of the race. The subcommittee for June 11 Pride 2022: Commissioners Culbert, Hartman, Holtorf, Le, and Spyhalski.
 - Brochure: To update pictures need to obtain permission given photos. Varinh has some. We could also ask Post Bulletin and Austin Daily Herald.

6. Round table:

- AAUW – fundraiser for January 8, at 7 pm. This is a fundraiser for scholarships for non-traditional students at Riverland. Story Show Tickets are on sale now at Coffee House on Main and Sweet Reads.
- January 23 – Drag yourself to church at UCC with Roxi singing praise band songs. Geared towards LGBTQIA+ community. Service at 10 am with breakfast in the Fellowship Hall immediately following.
- Our next meeting is Monday January 24th at 5:30 pm.

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

With no further business identified, the meeting was adjourned at 6:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Holtorf, Secretary