

**Austin Human Rights Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
July 25, 2022**

**Members Appearing in Person:** Sarah Hartman, Stephanie Holtorf, Vickie Spyhalski, An Le, Laura Helle, Miguel Garate, Trish Wiechmann and Jeff Austin.

**Members Absent:** Lia Culbert, Jenni Braaten and Varinh Van Vugt

Commissioner Hartman called meeting to order at 5:35 pm with quorum present.

1. Adopt/Approve Agenda – Commissioner Helle motioned to adopt and approve the reading of the agenda. Commissioner Spyhalski seconded to adopt and approve the reading of the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Helle motioned to adopt and approve the reading of the minutes. Commissioner Garate seconded to adopt and approve the reading of the minutes from May 23, 2022. Motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

3. Budget Report:
  - Expenses: \$300 was voted for via email for Commissioner Garate event. At this time, there is \$3100 left in the budget.
  - 2023 budget request: Update our ask for \$7000 because we would like to be able to sponsor Taste of Nations and Pride at a larger capacity next year. Commissioner Helle motioned to ask for \$7000. Commissioner Garate seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Reports:
  - Pride update:
    - Good feedback from the community
    - Looking at different months as June is too busy with all other pride events going on.
    - Looking at October 7, 2023 for Pride tentative date around Coming Out Day
    - Andrea Jenkins Black Trans artist and author – Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM at Paramount Theater for National Coming Out Day.
    - Commissioner Garate motioned to approve \$500 for Andrea Jenkins visit co-sponsorship. Commissioner Spyhalski seconded. Commissioner Helle abstained from voting. All others voted in favor – motion passed.
  - Land Acknowledgement sub-committee update:
    - September 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 1:00 PM volunteer as City of Austin Leadership at Mankato Powwow – rent a van from Key Motors or check Nature Center
  - Meeting with Superintendent Page:
    - To talk about safety in the schools

- City and school are starting to have joint talks; going well and would like to continue to build that relationship.
- Hold public forum on social media threats with Chief McKichan

5. Other Business:

- Whiteness in Plain View: The History of Racial Exclusion in Minnesota.
  - Partner with Library and Historical Society for author visit Chad Montrie
  - Thursday September 15 at 7:00 PM during Welcoming Week
  - Sweet Reads will contribute the \$300 for the author.
  - Commissioner Helle motioned for HRC to commit up to \$300 for the Whiteness in Plain View Event, to be used for promotion and other expenses. Commissioner Le seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Welcoming Week: September 9 through 18
  - Avoid September 17<sup>th</sup> afternoon when planning
  - Friday September 16 5:00 to 7:00 PM Library Salsa del Sol musical event
  - Friday September 16 noon to midnight Tienda y Guerrero parking lot
  - Library working on speakers/readers events
  - Thursday September 8 Farmers Market booth with dunk tank
  - Trish will contact those that were involved last year.
  - Theme “Where We Belong”
  - Think of events to have partner with us or groups or organization

6. Citizens Addressing the Commission:

- None

7. Roundtable:

- Oaxaca Festival was a success.

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

With no further business identified, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Holtorf, Secretary