

**Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2023**

Members Appearing in Person: Dylan Berthiaume, Miguel Garate, Sarah Hartman, Stephanie Holtorf, Joyce Poshusta, Denver Ritz, Kellie Schmidt, Vickie Spyhalski, Varinh Van Vugt and Trish Wiechmann

Members Absent: An Le

Guest: George Thomas

Commissioner Hartman called meeting to order at 5:32 pm with quorum present.

1. Adopt/Approve Agenda – Commissioner Berthiaume motioned to adopt and approve the reading of the agenda. Commissioner Garate seconded to adopt and approve the reading of the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Garate motioned to adopt, with corrections noted, and approve the reading of the minutes. Commissioner Hartman seconded to adopt and approve the reading of the minutes from January 23, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Budget Report:
Expenses:
 - \$66.46 used from our budget so far this year that went towards name tags and the MLK Event
 - There was an email motion from Co-Chair Spyhalski to cover the cost of refreshments for the Conversation with Law Enforcement event. This was seconded by Co-Chair Hartman. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Spyhalski has receipts that she will submit for reimbursement.
4. Requests:
 - Our America, Our Austin is asking for \$500 to replace some frames and support the program reprinting book for sale and exhibit at the State Capital. Commissioner Garate motioned to approve \$500 towards Our America Our Austin. Commissioner Ritz seconded. Motion passed unanimously. It was noted that the Austin City Council approved \$1000 towards this project as well.
5. Update of event from yesterday at the YMCA Conversation with Law Enforcement:
 - Immigrant Law Center Sara Karki, Sheriff Sandvik and Chief McKichan all presented. Talked about navigating encounters and Q and A.
 - Attendance of about 60+ a large presence from Benin, Togo, and Mexico at the event. Interpreters for French, Spanish, Karen, Karenni were available. Childcare was available as well.
 - We need a better way to communicate what is going on for events besides Facebook.

6. Social Justice Book Club:

- Commissioner Le will be leading the discussion in March and June.
- Commissioner Spyhalski will also be leading a discussion on Dancing in the Darkness.

7. Portuguese Delegation – in Austin March 22 and March 23

- Part of Welcoming America and want to visit 5 cities in United States, learn from us that we have done and take things back to utilize in their communities.
- Dinner March 22nd March 23rd tour the city and meet representatives from different local organizations. The Welcoming America report will be presented by Councilman Baskin. It was noted that the commission would like to work on updating the welcoming report.

8. Pride update:

- We need to figure out the time of Pride activities
- Subcommittee: Commissioners Berthiaume, Hartman, Holtorf, Le and Ritz would like to meet in March.
- Capital City Pride: we would like to have a booth representing our pride at Des Moines the second weekend of June.

9. Other Business:

- Cultural resources for local communities and youth

10. Citizens Addressing the Commission:

- None

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

With no further business identified, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Holtorf, Secretary