

**Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2023**

Members Appearing in Person: Bryan Davis, Sarah Hartman, Stephanie Holtorf, An Le, Denver Ritz, Vickie Spyhalski and Trish Wiechmann

Absent: Dylan Berthiaume, Miguel Garate, Joyce Poshusta and Varinh Van Vugt

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

1. Welcome – new HRC member – Bryan Davis
2. Adopt/Approve Agenda – Commissioner Le motioned to adopt and approve the reading of the agenda. Commissioner Holtorf seconded to adopt and approve the reading of the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Hartman motioned to adopt and approve the reading of the minutes. Commissioner Ritz seconded to adopt and approve the reading of the minutes from August 28, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Budget Report:
Expenses:
 - We had approved \$900 for equity training. Commissioner Garate was able to attend through Riverland so now there is a sponsored HRC spot that is no longer needed.
 - Put \$180 back into HRC budget
 - Expenses to date: \$2,922.73
 - Balance: \$3,577.27 (w/1,000 earmarked for Pride)
Request for \$250 – Greenwood Ave Project:
 - Paramount got \$500 sponsorship from Minnesota Historical Society – used up all the free ticket vouchers
 - Motion for \$250 to sponsor Paramount to cover free tickets for those attendees that were lacking funds. Commissioner Le motioned. Commissioner Ritz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Sub-committee updates:
 - Pride: Commissioners Hartman reported that funding is coming along. We are still getting together the last-minute items but are close to wrapping up.
6. Report/Reminder/Discussion:
 - Welcoming Week – There were some good events, but much less community involvement or attendance than last year. We discussed ways to increase attendance for next year.

7. Other Business: None

8. Citizens Addressing the Commission:

- Estaban from Games People Play discussed an interest in learning about HRC and what we do, as well as commenting on community attendance topic we discussed earlier.

9. Commission Roundtable:

- SMART bus – accessibility issue, confusing to use, isn't picking up at correct location or at the correct times. Leadership Austin assigns leaders in the community to try out the SMART bus and it is too difficult to navigate. If leaders in the community struggle with this, how do we expect our community members to use this resource?
- Commissioner Spyhalski is working with Episcopal, UCC, Presbyterian, and some progressive Lutheran Churches to create a Matthew25 coalition on social justice issues relevant to our community.

Commissioner Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ritz seconded the motion. With no further business identified, the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Holtorf, Secretary