

**Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2023**

Members Appearing in Person: Bryan Davis, Sarah Hartman, An Le, Denver Ritz, Varinh Van Vugt, Vickie Spyhalski and Trish Wiechmann.

Absent: Dylan Berthiaume, Stephanie Holtorf, Miguel Garate, and Joyce Poshusta.

Guests – Kea Maxwell and Memy Diaz

Commissioner Spyhalski called meeting to order at 5:40 PM with quorum present.

1. Adopt/Approve Agenda – Commissioner Le motioned to adopt and approve the reading of the agenda. Commissioner Hartman seconded to adopt and approve the reading of the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Hartman motioned to adopt and approve the reading of the minutes. Commissioner Le seconded to adopt and approve the reading of the minutes from September 23, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Budget Report:

Expenses:

- Expenses to date: \$4,172.73
- Balance: \$2,327.27 (new balance following Day of the Dead approval – \$1,927.27)

What are some additional things we'd want to spend the remaining budget on? Setting aside an allocation for the HRC's MLK event would be good and is consistent with things we have done in the past since the MLK event happens so early in the year.

Discussed doing the same or similar holiday billboard that we did last year. The cost for 2022 was \$650. Further discussion, but no decision made.

4. Report:

Pride: Commission reviewed the October 7 event – hiccups throughout the day, but made it through and for those community members attending, seemed to be a successful event.

Commission members reported that they have received negative comments and feedback about some aspects of the event. The day was cool and turned colder as the day/night went on; discussed having the event earlier than October. Attendance at the later afternoon/evening entertainment was low.

Denver reported that Hormel – Hproud would not be sponsoring it again in 2024.

Covered the sponsors and expenses for the event. Two of the entertainment acts donated their time and sub-committee members also donated to much of the event. Total sponsorship plus day-of raffle and free-will donation was \$7,093.15; with expenses of \$6,977.75; leaving

a balance of \$115.40. We will still need to pay something to the reserves for providing security for the day. This is paid to the explorer's program vs. to the individuals who worked. Possibly look at something in the range of \$300 – \$350.

Discussed the amount billed by Roxi for emcee and entertainment. Currently the amount billed is \$1,200, the other items (on the same invoice) are for reimbursement amounts of sponsorship banners and drag queen performers (3).

Commission discussed the conflict of interest for Roxi and Dylan serving on the sub-committee. Commission Ritz believes that this is a conflict of interest, Commissioner Hartman agreed that it was a conflict of interest.

Discussed the sponsorship from the Eagles based on sub-committee working drag queen bingo. Originally, their sponsorship was to be between \$500 – \$1,000 (had used \$800 when budgeting). After commission members worked the first bingo event; and heard how much potentially Pride would be getting for working bingo (or not getting), the committee members involved decided it wasn't worth working that many hours for the 3-4 people we had there. Hartman had indicated that Roxi would do a \$500 fee reduction to account for the Eagles sponsorship at a previous sub-committee meeting.

Commissioner Ritz suggested a \$500 reduction to the \$1,200 invoice from Roxi, paying a total of \$700; believes this is a fair amount. The event ended early; the raffle wasn't completed on stage because Roxi had left the event early and to account for the \$500 reduction previously noted.

Commissioner Van Vugt made a motion to make an adjustment to the amount paid to Roxi to \$700, seconded by Commissioner Spyhalski. Motion passed on approval of four members. Commissioner Ritz and Hartman abstained, without comment.

5. HRC terms expiring end of 2023

Vicke Spyhalski, Sarah Hartman and Dylan Kaercher-Berthiaume – Commissioner Spyhalski indicated that she would like to continue with the commission. Commissioner Hartman indicated that she is reporting Dylan's resignation as of tonight and she will be doing the same.

6. Other Business: Commissioner Le indicated that the library is looking for HRC members who are interested in taking dates in 2024 for their Social Justice book club. He is going to be taking two dates; he will be doing two of the same two books he did this year.

Commission discussed looking at doing a community event/community conversation on respectful conversation and understanding differences.

Social media – discussed needing to keep our HRC Facebook page current, relevant and active. Commissioner Spyhalski volunteered to take the month of November. We will discuss December next month.

7. Citizens Addressing the Commission: None

8. Commission Roundtable: None

Commissioner Ritz moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hartman seconded the motion. With no further business identified, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Wiechmann, liaison