

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

Members Appearing in Person: Sarah Hartman, Stephanie Holtorf, An Le, Joyce Poshusta, Denver Ritz, Vickie Spyhalski, Varinh Van Vugt, and Trish Wiechmann

Absent: Bryan Davis and Miguel Garate

Commissioner Hartman called meeting to order at 5:34 pm with quorum present.

1. 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.
2. Approve Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Spyhalski motioned to adopt and approve the reading of the minutes. Commissioner Le seconded to adopt and approve the reading of the minutes from October 23, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Budget Report:
Expenses:
 - Approved \$400 for Day of the Dead already removed so now \$1927.27 left for the HRC budget
 - Have not yet paid Mower County Reserves
 - Last year we did \$250
 - This year we suggested \$350 because the event was longer
4. Sub-committee updates:
Pride – Issues to Discuss:
 - Conflict of Interest
 - Dylan Berthiaume (Roxi Manacoochi) was a member of HRC and on the Pride subcommittee, as well as being the headliner for Austin Pride
 - Contracts for Entertainment were requested and not provided, including Roxi's contract
 - HRC and Pride Subcommittee members were not informed about what Roxi Manacoochi would charge until sent a bill after the performance
 - The cost of the entertainment budget was not transparent or communicated properly
 - Some performers were asked to donate their time
 - Itemized Budget was not provided in writing
 - Had to Raise Additional Funds to try to pay for entertainment for pride
 - Did not raise enough to cover all the entertainment cost
 - Some Pride Subcommittee members purchased items for Pride with their own money to compensate for insufficient funds
 - Roxi Manacoochi hosted Drag Bingo with the Eagles and asked Pride subcommittee members to volunteer for the event with the understanding that the Eagles would donate \$500 as they had done previously.
 - However, the Eagles informed Dylan after Drag Bingo that they would only donate \$75 if done monthly.

- Dylan stated in a phone conversation during a Pride Subcommittee meeting that he would eat the cost of the \$500 that the Eagles were supposed to donate.
- The October Meeting discussed this as the reason for initially paying Dylan \$700 (\$1200 - \$500 Eagles = \$700)
- Donations towards Pride were for Pride
 - All donations for Pride were used for Pride to cover the costs of entertainment and sound, decorations, and security
 - Remaining from Pride Donations is \$656.05
 - Left to pay is the Mower County Reserves for providing security during Pride
 - We discussed \$350 donation to Mower County Reserves
 - This leaves \$306.05 remaining in the Pride Budget to pay Dylan Berthiaume (Roxi Manacoochi)

Commissioner Vugt motioned to use the remaining budget for Pride (\$656.05) to pay out the Mower County Reserves \$350 and the remaining Pride Funds to go to Roxi (\$306.05) plus the original \$700. This will be \$1,006.05 total to Roxi. Second motion by Commissioner Hartman.

Commissioner Ritz abstained. Motion passed.

5. Report/Reminder/Discussion:

- None

6. Other Business:

- None

7. Citizens Addressing the Commission:

- Dylan Berthiaume was present to discuss Pride Payments

8. Commission Roundtable:

- None

Commissioner Ritz moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Le seconded the motion. With no further business identified, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Holtorf, Secretary