

**Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2024**

Present: Bryan Davis, Miguel Garate, Stephanie Holtorf, An Le, Denver Ritz, Vickie Spyhalski, Bridget Halvorson, Arkaysia Hampton, and Trish Wiechmann.

Absent: Varinh VanVugt and Joyce Poshusta.

Guest: George Favell

Commissioner Spyhalski called the meeting to order at 5:34 with a quorum present.

1. Adopt/Approve Agenda: Commissioner Le motioned to adopt and approve the reading of the agenda. Commissioner Ritz seconded to adopt and approved the reading of the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Le motioned to adopt and approve the reading of the November 27, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Ritz seconded to adopt and approved the reading of the November 27, 2023 minutes. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Ritz motioned to adopt and approve the reading of the December 18, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Le seconded to adopt and approved the reading of the December 18, 2023 minutes. The motion passed unanimously with a few spelling changes noted.
3. Budget Report: Trish Wiechmann reported that were allocated \$6,500 for 2024. \$1,500 of that has already been paid to Welcoming America and \$358.99 was dispersed to pay for the Martin Luther King, Jr. dinner held on January 15, 2024. The remaining budget amount is \$4,641.01 for calendar year 2024.
4. Organizational Structure: Commissioner Davis motioned to open the floor for nominations; Commissioner Ritz seconded. Commissioner Le motioned for Commissioner Spyhalski to serve as Co-Chair; and Commissioner Ritz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Le motioned for Commissioner Davis to serve a Co-Chair; Commissioner Ritz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Davis motioned for Commissioner Hampton to serve in the roll of Secretary, motion failed for a lack of second. This item was tabled until the February meeting.

5. Parliamentary Role: Commissioner Davis brought forth a discussion regarding the need for a parliamentarian for more efficient meetings. Discussion of Robert's Rules of Order. At the present time, it was decided that Commissioner Davis would conduct training and share a video regarding parliamentary procedures to the group.
6. 2024 Meeting Schedule: This item was moved to the end of the agenda, then due to lack of time, this item was tabled for discussion in February.

7. MLK Event Report: approximately 14 people attended the dinner, potentially due to weather, location or lack of awareness. Discussion was held re: future MLK Day events including tie-ins with the high school (potential with an externally funded Riverland scholarship) to increase awareness and attendance. A food packing project didn't work for this year, as it was too short of a window, but it could be a future service project.

The commission believes the event had good marketing, but maybe we didn't hit our target group. More work and discussion earlier for next year.

8. Committee Communication Platform Aside from Regular Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Ritz and Commissioner Davis recommended that we identify a single platform that includes all commissioners that is easily accessible. After some discussion, the commissioners agreed that creating a text group would be most efficient. Commissioner Davis motioned to have a text group, seconded by Commissioner Spyhalski, unanimous approval. Commissioner Davis will create a text message group with all commission members cell phone numbers. This will be used to circulate current information to keep everybody informed, but it won't be used for formal action, or take the place of our regular monthly meetings.
9. 2024 Events Discussion: this item was tabled due to lack of time. A few quick items brought up were 2024 Taste of Nations, something about voting since this is an election year, Heritage Foundation (?).
10. Other Business: no discussion.
11. Citizens Addressing the Commission: George Favell, Priest at Christ Episcopal Church, brought forward a concern that there might not be a Pride event in Austin in 2024. Due to limited commission resources, commissioners agreed that an event should not be championed by the Human Rights Commission. If an Austin-specific event happens in 2024, the Commission may choose support it, if resources are available. This may warrant additional discussion down the road.
12. Commission Roundtable: no discussion.
13. Next Meeting: February 26, 2024 at 5:30 PM.
14. Adjournment: Commissioner Ritz motioned to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Spyhalski seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.