

**Austin Human Rights Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
February 26, 2024**

**Present:** Bryan Davis, Miguel Garate, Stephanie Holtorf, Bridget Halvorson, Denver Ritz, Vickie Spyhalski, Trish Wiechmann, and Joyce Poshusta.

**Absent:** An Le

Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. with a quorum present.

1. **Adopt/Approve Agenda:** Commissioner Spyhalski motioned to adopt and approve the reading of the agenda. Commissioner Garate seconded to adopt and approved the reading of the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Approve Meeting Minutes:** Commissioner Ritz motioned to adopt and approve the reading of the January 22, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Garate seconded to adopt and approved the reading of the January 22, 2024 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Budget Report:** Trish Wiechmann reported that \$1,877.99 has been spent to date in 2024. The only expenses this month were the purchase of 2 name tags for the two new commissioners. The remaining budget amount is \$4,622.01 for calendar year 2024.
4. **Organizational Structure:** Commissioner Hampton was nominated to serve as Secretary starting in May by Commissioner Ritz; Commissioner Van Vugt seconded the motion. Commissioner Spyhalski and Trish Wiechmann will take minutes in the interim. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Robert's Rules of Order:** Commissioner Davis shared a video with the commissioners to make meetings more efficient and effective.
6. **HRC Facebook & email Account Maintenance and Monitoring:** As Co-Chairs, Commissioners Davis & Spyhalski will take turns sharing the Facebook account and HRC email maintenance. Trish Wiechmann will send email access to Commissioners Davis and Spyhalski. Commissioner Spyhalski will set up an automated response message for the email account. The Facebook account has an automated response message.
7. **HRC Table at ComicCon:** Commissioner Davis motioned for HRC to have a table at this event at the Austin Public Library on March 16, from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Commissioner Spyhalski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The HRC will have some sort of candy and use stickers that we already have. Commissioner Le will work the event and Commissioner Spyhalski will come for a shorter period to relieve Commissioner Le.

8. 2024 Focus Events:

- a. HRC Logo – after healthy discussion, Trish did take notes on suggested changes, which will be sent to An, but additional discussion and feedback will occur when Commissioner Le is present.
- b. HRC Welcoming Plan – the current Welcoming Plan for the City of Austin is from July 2017 and should be revisited. Trish Wiechmann will find the current Welcoming Plan and send it out to the commissioners, also noting that it is also available on the HRC's web page as well. Next steps will be determined at the March 2024 meeting. Early interest from Commissioners Ritz, Davis and Spyhalski in serving on a sub-committee as necessary.
- c. Voting Support – Since it is an election year, the composition of the commission has changed and the city clerk who oversees voting has changed, Commissioner Spyhalski suggested revisiting the previously recorded voting video. She will send out the previous video to the commissioners and review the script.

9. 2024 Meeting Schedule: commissioners agreed to maintain the current meeting schedule of the fourth Monday of the month at 5:30 PM.

10. Other Business:

- a. Black History Month Story Time: Commissioners Davis & Ritz provided a recap from the Black History Month Story Time at the library. It was well-attended and the commissioners decided it would be a good idea to pursue additional story time events with the library. Commissioner Ritz will follow-up with Julie Clinefelter re: next steps.
- b. Taste of Nations: Due to fewer large-scale events requiring financial support, Commissioner Davis motioned that we allocate \$2,000 to the Taste of Nations. Commissioner Spyhalski seconded. The motion passed with Commissioners Ritz and Van Vugt abstaining.

Citizens Addressing the Commission: there were no citizens present.

Commission Roundtable: no discussion.

Next Meeting: March 25, 2024 at 5:30 PM.

Adjournment: Commissioner Davis motioned to adjourn the meeting Ritz seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.