

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

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

Guest: Two citizens.

Absent: Joyce Poshusta.

Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. with a quorum present.

1. *Adopt/Approve Agenda:* Commissioner Hampton motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ritz seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. *Approve Meeting Minutes:* Commissioner Van Vugt motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Garate seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. *Budget Report:* Trish Wiechmann reported that \$3,985.79 has been spent with \$2,514.21 remaining.
 - a. Update on Driving Classes Donation: Week One had 12 attendees, Week Two had 13 attendees, Week Three had 8 attendees, and Week Four had 5 attendees.
 - b. 2025 Budget Proposal: It was suggested to propose an additional \$500, totaling \$7,000.

Commissioner Ritz motioned to approve the budget proposal. Commissioner Hampton seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. *HRC Logo*
 - a. Commissioner Hampton shared the current state of the HRC Logo and received suggestions on how to arrange the words within the state outline.
5. *Voting Support:*
 - a. Local Candidate Forums – September 10th, 2024, and September 17th, 2024
The forum begins at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 8:00 p.m. and needs volunteers for set-up and tear down.

A citizen that was in attendance suggested partnering with United Way to have young volunteers for set-up and clean-up.

- a. September 10: Commissioner Ritz, Davis, and Le will be in attendance.
- b. September 17: Commissioner Ritz, Le, and Spyhalski will be in attendance.
 - ii. Commissioner Spyhalski suggested allocating \$500 (\$250 per date) for refreshments.

Commissioner Le motioned to approve the \$500 allocation. Commissioner Garate seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. *Discuss Calendar of Events:*

- a. Commissioner Ritz will email out the calendar of events.
- b. Commissioner Le has been in contact with the Paramount Theatre on partnering on an event.

7. *Welcoming Week report:*

- a. Commissioner Van Vugt has a meeting coming up on Wednesday with different agencies to discuss the plan of events and possible collaborations. If available, Commissioners may join the Microsoft Team Meeting.
 - i. Welcoming Week will be held September 13 – 22

8. *Future Events:* There are no current updates.

9. *Other Business:*

- a. Trish Wiechmann reported that the city of Austin is looking to purchase a subscription of the *Language Line Solutions* service for 2025. This service also allows for video support.
 - i. The HRC will endorse this cause with added communication of clarification of the different languages that are offered.

10. *Old Business:*

- a. Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Spyhalski plan to meet during October.
 - i. The goal is to discuss the Welcoming Plan, HRC Strategic Plan, and invite stakeholders within the community.
 - 1. The HRC will facilitate and moderate. The Community Action Building was suggested since there needs to be space that allows for large writing boards.
 - 2. It is also suggested to have a hybrid session and have it recorded.
 - ii. Commissioner Le, Hampton, and Davis will work on creating a survey to gauge the availability of the attendees.
 - iii. Commissioner Le and Holtorf are working on a shared form to create a list of people to invite.

11. *Addressing the Committee:*

- a. A citizen suggested that Austin Officers receive sensitivity training for sexual assault. Trish Wiechmann will research if training is currently given.
- b. Another citizen provided positive feedback on what the HRC is doing and suggested that the HRC should continue to build connections so that awareness is raised on what the HRC does.

12. *Commission Roundtable:*

- a. Commissioner Le shared that the flyers that the HRC passes out at events will be updated soon.

Next Meeting: August 26, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Commissioner Ritz motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Garate seconded this motion. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.