

Austin Human Rights Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
April 28, 2025

**Present:** Vickie Spyhalski, Bryan Davis, Varinh Van Vugt, Miguel Garate, An Le, Stephanie Holtorf, Bridget Halvorson and Tricia Wiechmann.

**Absent:** Arkaysia Hampton and Denver Ritz.

1. Call to Order: Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. with a quorum present.
2. Old Business
  - a. Approve Current Meeting Agenda

The agenda was approved noting the addition of Taste of Nations to 3a1. Commissioner VanVugt made the motion, Commissioner Le seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.
  - b. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes – March 24, 2025

The previous month’s meeting minutes were approved noting the addition of Commissioner Le to the “Good of the Order.” Commissioner Le moved; Commissioner Halvorson seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.
  - c. Budget Report – \$3,555.17

City Liaison Wiechmann reported that \$2,944.83 has been spent. The \$250 for the Spanish driver’s license has not come through yet, we have pledged \$500 to the Juneteenth event, and the membership for Welcoming America came in at only \$1,000 versus the \$1,500 we thought it would be. Budget remaining after the \$750 is spent, will be \$2,805.17.
3. New Business
  - a. HRC 4th Avenue Fest Table:

HRC will have a table at 4th Avenue Fest (located by the library) on Wednesday, June 4 from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Commissioner Spyhalski will take the 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM time slot. Commissioner Holtorf and Halvorson both indicated that they can take later shifts. Commissioner Spyhalski will put a reminder in the group chat.

Commissioner Holtorf made a motion to spend up to \$100 for goodies at the HRC table to cover both the Taste of Nations and 4th Avenue Fest; seconded by Commissioner Le. Unanimous approval.
  - a.1. Taste of Nations:

HRC will have a table at the Taste of Nations at the Bandshell Park on Saturday, May 17. Commissioner Spyhalski is not available; Commissioner Halvorson indicated that she could work after 1:00 PM. Commissioner Ritz is emceeding the event, and Varinh will be busy with the event as well. Something will be sent out in the group chat.

b. Review/Discussion on HRC Bylaws

The most recent Austin Human Rights Commission By-Laws last updated on 9/22/2008 were reviewed and discussed. The proposed changes were read by Chairperson Davis for the third reading and review. He indicated that there are probably other areas of the by-laws that need additional review, but he would request the Commission approve the current by-laws as presented with the changes to Article VI, Meetings of the Commission. Commissioner Le made a motion to approve the revised by-laws and Commissioner Davis seconded. The motion was carried with a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of the Commission, with 7 Yeas; 0 Nays and 2 members Absent.

c. Yard Signs:

The revised yard sign design in support of diverse families in Austin was reviewed. The commission expressed interest in potentially using the design. Commissioner Spyhalski will ask the if the designer would be open to this. Commissioner Spyhalski made a motion to allocate \$250 to assist in printing and distribution of the “All Families Belong” design in a variety of formats. Commissioner Holtorf seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Follow-Up Discussion/Request – Yard Signs

Commissioner Spyhalski will follow up on this item.

e. Roadmap Discussion

This will be tabled for a future meeting.

f. Citizens Addressing the Commission

None

g. “For the Good of the Order”

Commissioner Holtorf praised Commissioner Le for the good work he is doing with the local Pride event.

h. Commission Roundtable

- There will be a pride event on Saturday, October 11.
- Mexican consulate visit last weekend was well attended with over 200 people.
- Recent Spanish speaking driver’s education class at the library had 29 participants.

4. Adjournment: Commissioner VanVugt motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Halvorson seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:19 PM.

**Next Meeting:** Monday May 19 @ 5:30 PM. Note, this is a week earlier due to the Memorial Day holiday.