

Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2025

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

Call to Order: Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM with a quorum present.

Old Business

Approve Current Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Ritz motioned to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Van Vugt seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

a. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes – April 28, 2025

Commissioner Le motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Garate seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Budget Report – *expected leftover of \$2,454.82 pending below expenses*

- We are anticipating the below expenses: \$1,100.35
 - Pledged \$250 for Spanish Driver's license classes
 - Pledged \$250 for Yard Signs
 - Pledged \$500 for Juneteenth Block Party
 - \$100.35 Snacks TON and 4th Avenue Fest

New Business

c. Recap of Taste of Nations

- There were around 1,000 attendees.
 - This is a slight decline from previous years, but this is likely due to weather.
 - There were 30+ vendors and 10+ performers.
 - This turnout is proof that this continues to be a very important and needed event!
 - The HRC table received many visitors!

Things to Consider:

- If police officers are going to attend, it would be nice to have them interact more with community members.
- A flyer with simple wording on information about the HRC would be helpful. "*Who are we and what do we do?*".

d. HRC Table – 4th Avenue Fest

- This event will be held Wednesday June 4th from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
 - Commissioner Spyhalski: 4 PM – 5 PM
 - Commissioners Halvorson: 5 PM – 6 PM
 - Commissioners Stephanie & Van Vugt: 6 PM – 7 PM
- Juneteenth Flyer – Thursday June 19th from 4 PM – 5:30 PM
 - A flyer has been completed and was shared during Taste of Nations.
 - We are expecting 150+ attendees.
 - This event will be partnered with Austin Aspires' Summer Block Parties.

- a. Commissioner Van Vugt has a contact she can reach out to about entertainment.
- e. Pride – Save the Date Cards
 - Saturday October 11th from 11 AM – 4 PM
 - 1. Commissioner Van Vugt suggested Riverland as a potential partner for assistance with printing Save the Dates.
- f. Citizens Addressing the Commission
 - There were no additional citizens in attendance.
- g. “For the Good of the Order”
 - Commissioner Davis provided Good of the Order to Commissioner Van Vugt on a successful Taste of Nations event, Commissioner Ritz for an amazing job as MC, and Commissioner Holtorf for her hard work!
- h. Commission Roundtable
 - Placeholders for Future Meetings
 - 1. Roadmap Discussions
 - 2. Social Media Protocol on Active Issues
 - a. Commissioner Ritz suggested that if there are issues that the majority of the HRC feel needs to be addressed, we will look into addressing it as a commission.
 - 3. Yard Sign Status
 - 4. New Brochure Creation
 - a. The HRC will explore ideas for a more welcoming brochure.

Adjournment: Commissioner Ritz motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Spyhalski seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday June 23rd, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.