

**Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2025**

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

Absent: Bryan Davis and Bridget Halvorson.

Call to Order: Commissioner Spyhalski called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM with a quorum present.

Old Business

- a. Approve Current Meeting Agenda
 - Commissioner Ritz mentioned adding a section to discuss upcoming awareness dates on events to post on social media.
 - Commissioner Hampton mentioned moving the Juneteenth Recap to the end of the meeting.

Commissioner Le motioned to approve the agenda with these changes. Commissioner Ritz seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2025
Commissioner Holtorf motioned to adopt the previous meeting's minutes. Commissioner Ritz seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Budget Report – \$2,454.82 remaining
There have been no additional charges or changes to the budget since the previous meeting.

New Business

- a. Social Media Protocol on Active Issues
Commissioner Ritz has assisted with creating an HRC social media Policy to reflect the community and address public instances that take place.

Commissioner Van Vugt motioned to adopt this policy. Commissioner Garate seconded this motion with an abstention from Commissioner Ritz. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ritz opened the floor for suggestions on any days to recognize in the upcoming months.

- *South Sudanese Independence Day:* July 9
An event will be held in Austin on Saturday July 12
- *Benin Independence Day:* August 4
- *Overdose Awareness:* August 31

b. Yard Sign Update

Commissioner Spyhalski will research how many yards signs can be ordered for \$250. The sign reads “All Families Belong in Austin”.

c. Citizens Addressing the Commission

There were no additional citizens in attendance.

d. “For the Good of the Order”

Commissioner Spyhalski provided “Good of the Order” for:

- Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Hampton for a successful Juneteenth event.
- Commissioner Ritz for drafting a social media Policy.
- Oballa Oballa for rejoining his position as a representative of the HRC.

e. Juneteenth Recap

Commissioner Hampton reported that the first annual Juneteenth event was a great success. There were approximately 245 in attendance. It was a great opportunity for social networking.

f. Commission Roundtable

Commissioner Le shared Save the Dates for Austin Pride. Saturday October 11, 2025

Commissioner Van Vugt shared that a Welcoming Committee Planning meeting has been held.

- APEX and Welcome Center are celebrating 25 years!
- HRC will have a table and be involved in the kick-off event. Are there other events the HRC can cohost or help to organize?
- It was suggested to do a New Citizen Swearing In recognition event. Invite all new citizens to come and be recognized.

Adjournment: Commissioner Ritz motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Holtorf seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday July 28, 2025 @ 5:30 PM.