

Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2025

Present: Vickie Spyhalski, Arkaysia Hampton, An Le, Varinh Van Vugt, Stephanie Holtorf, Bridget Halvorson, and Trish Wiechmann.

Absent: Bryan Davis, Denver Ritz, Miguel Garate, and Oballa Oballa.

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

Old Business

- a. Approve Current Meeting Agenda
 - Commissioner Van Vugt motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Le seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

 - b. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes – July 28, 2025
Commissioner Holtorf motioned to adopt the previous meeting’s minutes. Commissioner Hampton seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Budget Report – \$2,411.37 remaining
 - No additional expenses have hit since the previous meeting.
 - Expenses still pending:
 - Spanish Driver’s License has not hit budget yet
 - 45 Yard Signs - \$247.45
 - Renewal for HRC Email domain: \$46.00
 - Potential Budget Expenses to be discussed in the upcoming meeting
 - *New HRC Nametags:* estimating \$105
 - *Day of the Dead:* \$400
 - *Refreshments for Welcoming Week:* \$300
 - *Potential Zonta Donation:* \$300
 - *Welcoming Week Dunk Tank:*

New Business

- a. Welcoming Week – Update/Report
 - Kick-Off Event – Friday September 12, 2025
 - Ribbon cutting at 3:45 PM
 - Need workers for HRC table
 - Dunk tank/flush tank – this will be delivered on Friday and setup from 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM; cost of the tank is \$250. Commissioner Le motioned for the HRC to sponsor the dunk/flush tank. Commissioner Holtorf seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously with an abstention from Commissioner Van Vugt.
 - Proclamation will done at the September 2, 2025, City Council meeting, anybody who’d like to attend should be there by 5:30 PM, it will be one of the first items.

- Wright Here Right Now Podcast – Vickie will be doing this podcast on Thursday, September 4, talking about Welcoming Week.
- b. Pride Report/Update – Commissioner Le shared that planning is going well! Donation Goal has increased to \$10,000; the Karaoke event had 68 people in attendance and went well.
- c. Yard Sign Distribution – the signs have arrived. Please share with anyone that is interested, let Trish know if you’d like some for yourself or for distribution.
- d. Future Events Planning
 - Zonta – November/Early December
 - Day of the Dead - November
 - Citizenship – no update
- e. Citizens Addressing the Committee

There were no additional citizens in attendance.

- f. “For the Good of the Order”
 - Commissioner Spyhalski provided good of the order to Commissioner Van Vugt for beginning a new role in the school district September.
- g. Commission Roundtable
 - Commissioner Spyhalski shared that there will be a dinner for a warming shelter opening in November. The hope is for the warming shelter to be open from November 2025 – April 2026.
 - Commissioner Van Vugt shared that they are working on translated manuals (i.e., where citizens can hunt, fish, etc.).

Placeholder for Future Meetings

- a. Roadmap Discussion
- b. New Brochure Creation

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

Next Meeting: Monday September 22, 2025 @ 5:30 PM.