

**Austin Human Rights Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
September 22, 2025**

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

**Absent:** Oballa Oballa.

**Guest Attendees:** Jessica La Rose and Casey La Rose.

1. Call to Order:

Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM with a quorum present.

2. Old Business

a. Approve Current Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Davis mentioned adding Day of the Dead to New Business.

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

b. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes – August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Commissioner Holtorf motioned to adopt the previous meeting's minutes. Commissioner Garate seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Budget Report – \$2,410.99 remaining

- Expenses pending:
- Pride - \$250
- Name Tags - \$126.75
- Welcome Week - \$250

3. New Business

a. Welcoming Week – Report

- Commissioner Van Vugt mentioned that the Kick-Off event and the showing of Home in the Heartland: Immigrant Success Stories both went well.
- Commissioner Garate shared that the Austin Voices were powerful and sentimental.

b. Pride – Saturday October 11, 2025

There will be an HRC table at the event and volunteers are needed.

- Commissioner Van Vugt mentioned that she can volunteer at the HRC table from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- Commissioner Le shared that between sponsorships and donations, the 10K goal was exceeded!
- Volunteers are still needed:
  - Information Booth

- Kids' Activities
- De-escalation
- Parking
- Floaters

c. Yard Sign – Distribution  
There are a few signs left!

d. Future Events Planning

- Day of the Dead Celebration: November 1 and 2  
Commissioner Garate mentioned that the request is for \$400.

Commissioner Ritz motioned to allocate funds to the Day of the Dead Celebration. Commissioner Holtorf seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously with an abstention from Commissioner Garate.

- Zonta  
There is a potential allocation of \$300

e. Citizens Addressing the Committee

There were no specific topics addressed by the citizens in attendance.

f. “For the Good of the Order”

- Commissioner Ritz shared good of the order to Commissioner Van Vugt for all her hard work and recent accomplishments.
- Commissioner Davis shared good of the order to Trish Wiechmann on sharing a well written budget report.
- Trish Wiechmann provided good of the order to Commissioner Davis on becoming a new father.

g. Commission Roundtable

- Commissioner Van Vugt mentioned to follow-up with the MN HRC on what resources they have that we can utilize.

4. Placeholder for Future Meetings

- a. Roadmap Discussion
- b. New Brochure Creation

5. Adjournment: Commissioner Ritz motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Van Vugt seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:19 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday October 27, 2025 @ 5:30 PM.