

**Austin Human Rights Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
January 26, 2026**

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

1. Call to Order: Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. with a quorum present.

2. Old Business

a. Approve Current Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Holtorf pointed out to make sure the year is correct.

Commissioner Spyhalski motioned to approve the agenda with the fixed date. Commissioner Van Vugt seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2025

Commissioner Holtorf pointed out to make sure the year is correct.

Commissioner Van Vugt motioned to adopt the previous meeting's minutes with the fixed date. Commissioner Le seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Budget Report – \$6,500 budget for 2026

Previous Budget Allocations since the Previous Meeting

Trish Wiechmann purchased totes, pens, stickers, and magnets to add to the HRC swag grab items for 2026 events.

MLK Donations – \$185 in cash from attendees

Commissioner Van Vugt motioned to approve the donations to be split evenly between The Read Seed and First United Methodist. Commissioner Garate seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously with an abstention from Commissioner Spyhalski.

3. New Business

a. MLK Event Report

- For 2027, Commissioner Van Vugt and Spyhalski suggested ordering half the amount of soup that we ordered this year.
  - Additionally, potentially think of a vegetarian option.
- There were about 115 attendees.
  - Most attendees came between 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM
- The partnership with the Read Seed went great!
- Commissioner Van Vugt and Davis suggested setting up a subcommittee in the fall to do tasks such as take pictures.

- b. HRC Official Statement
  - Mayor King is working on a statement to address the city of Austin on the current events.
  - Commissioner Van Vugt will review a list of ways to help our neighbors. Once reviewed, a post would be made on the HRC's Facebook page.
- c. Commission Elections – This will be discussed during the next HRC Meeting.
  - Chair (or Co-Chairs)
  - Vice Chair (if single chair)
  - Secretary
- d. Future Events Planning
  - Community Connect with United Way – Thursday March 12 from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
    1. There was an ask of \$250 during the December meeting.
    2. Commissioner Spyhalski suggested that the HRC has a table.
- e. Citizens Addressing the Committee
  - There were no additional citizens in attendance.
- f. “For the Good of the Order”
  - Commissioner Davis provided good of the other to all commissioners for educating everyone on their perspectives and community advocacy.
  - Commissioner Davis provided good of the order to Commissioner Grady for joining the commission.
- g. Commission Roundtable
  - Commissioner An
    1. Austin Pride is planning monthly coffee dates and karaoke nights.
    2. February 26 – National Reading Day at the Austin Library
- 4. **Placeholder for Future Meetings**
  - a. Roadmap Discussion
  - b. New Brochure Creation
- 5. **Adjournment:** Commissioner Holtorf motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Van Vugt seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM.

**Next Meeting:** Monday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.