

Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2026

Present: Vickie Spyhalski, Miguel Garate, An Le, Stephanie Holtorf, and Bridget Halvorson.

Absent: Arkaysia Hampton, Bryan Davis, Varinh Van Vugt, Oballa Oballa, and Tricia Wiechmann.

Citizen Addressing Commission: PRC Executive Director Crystal Vandevender

Meeting called to order at 5:43 PM with quorum present.

Old Business:

1. Commissioner Le moved to approve Current Meeting Agenda; Commissioner Garate seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Commissioner Le moved to approve Previous Meeting Minutes; Commissioner Holtorf seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Budget Report was read by Commissioner Spyhalski; unchanged from previous months total unallocated funds of \$5,530.18.

New Business:

1. Welcoming Week:
 - PRC Exec Director Vandevender inquired re: opportunities for Welcoming Week. Vandevender will plan to have PRC host an Inviting Table event during Welcoming Week and will confirm date back to Trish Wiechmann.
 - Commissioner Spyhalski will contact the YMCA re: Welcome Week activities.
2. Austin, MN Pride Budget Request – Commissioner Spyhalski motioned to allocate \$1,000 from the HRC 2026 budget to the October Pride event; Commissioner Garate seconded. Commissioners Garate, Halvorson, Holtorf and Spyhalski voted in favor; Commissioner Le abstained. Motion carried.
3. Voter Registration Forums:
 - Commissioner Garate will connect with COPAL and CLUES re: partnering on a voter registration event.
 - Commissioner Le will connect with Indivisible re: partnering on a voter registration event.
 - In a separate but related initiative, the HRC will co-sponsor two voter forums with AAUW. The dates of those 2 events are 9/28 and 10/6.
4. August Social Media Posts – Commissioner Spyhalski will manage the page during the month of August.

5. Future Events Planning:
 - Commissioner Garate advised the group of the Guatemalan Consulate visit to IJ Holton on 8/15 and 8/16. Commissioner Spyhalski motioned that HRC should provide \$500 for refreshments; Commissioner Halvorson seconded. Commissioners Halvorson, Holtorf, Le and Spyhalski voted in favor; Commissioner Garate abstained. Motion carried.
6. Citizens Addressing the Commission – none aside from PRC Executive Director Vandevender.
7. No additional business discussed
8. Next meeting Monday, 8/24/26 at 5:30 PM.

Adjournment: Commissioner Holtorf motioned that meeting adjourn; Commissioner Le seconded; motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:11 PM.