

Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2026

Present: Vickie Spyhalski, Miguel Garate, Arkaysia Hampton, Bryan Davis, An Le, Stephanie Holtorf, and Morgan Converse.

Absent: Varinh Van Vugt, Bridget Halvorson, Trish Wiechmann, and Oballa Oballa.

Welcome to new commission member, Morgan Converse.

1. **Call to Order:** Commissioner Spyhalski called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM with a quorum present.
2. **Old Business**
 - a. Approve Current Meeting Agenda
Commissioner Le motioned to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Garate seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes – *August 3, 2026*
Commissioner Davis motioned to adopt the previous meeting's minutes. Commissioner Le seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - c. Budget Report – \$3,829 remaining
Current Expenses
 - Welcoming America Dues - \$1,000
 - MLK Dinner Donation – (\$90)
 - HyVee (Taste of Nations & 4th Ave Fest) – \$59.82
 - Postage for Pride Letters – \$223.48 needs to be reallocated
 - Consul of Guatemala – \$476.95
 - Pride - \$1,000 pledged, not paid yet
3. **New Business**
 - a. Welcoming Week – *September 10 – 19, 2026*
 - Theme: Stories We Share
 - Austin Public Library is reserved for September 15 from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
 - Additional Communications
 - Commissioner Spyhalski has reached out to the YMCA and PRC to learn what they will be doing for Welcoming Week.
 - Commissioners Le and Holtorf will follow-up with an update on what the Hormel Institute plans to do for Welcoming Week.
 - b. Voter Events
 - Library reserved for September 15, 2026 from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
 - Commissioner Garate will utilize this reservation.
 - Rock the Vote – October 17, 2026 from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

- There is an ask to sponsor this event for \$800. This includes sponsoring sound and having a table at the event.
Commissioner Le motioned for the HRC to sponsor \$800 for this event.
Commissioner Garate seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously with abstention from Commissioner Spyhalski.
- c. Naming Todd Park Slide
There was an ask for the Human Rights Commission to help select a name for the slide.
- d. Social Media Posts – September
Commissioner Spyhalski will make posts for the month of September.
- e. Future Events Planning
Nur-D Voter Registration Event – September 12, 2026 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
 - Commissioner Davis motioned to allocate \$1,000 Nur-D be a sponsor for this event.
Commissioner Spyhalski seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously with abstention from Commissioners Le and Converse.
 - Commissioner Hampton motioned to allocate \$200 for supplies for the two voter forum events. Commissioner Spyhalski seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- f. Citizens Addressing the Committee
There were no additional topics of discussion.
- g. “For the Good of the Order”
There were none provided.
- h. Commission Roundtable
Commissioner Le shared
 - Pride Karaoke – August 28, 2026
 - Austin Artworks Festival – August 29 & 30

Commissioner Spyhalski shared that there is a Mental Health event on August 27

Commissioner Garate shared

 - Garden Open House on August 27 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
 - Concert on August 26

4. **Placeholder for Future Meetings**

- a. Underserved Populations Mental Health
 - b. Roadmap Discussion
 - c. New Brochure Creation
5. **Adjournment:** Commissioner Garate 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 28, 2026 @ 5:30 PM