

Meeting minutes Human rights commission

Members present: Andrea Alvarez, Abby Bauer, Lee Conlife, Jackie Kay, Daniel Bashore, Otoha Masaki, Isabel Anderson, Catherine Lawler Turnbull

Members absent: Celia Anderson,

Staff present: Pat Coleman, community engagement coordinator

Guests: Mike Mellas, executive director of friends of the arts

1. Call to order – roll call – 6:05pm
2. Approval of agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Kay, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the agenda of the June 24, 2025 meeting. Motion carried

3. Approval of minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Bashore, seconded by Commissioner Kay, to approve the meeting minutes of the May 27, 2025 meeting. Motion carried

4. Old business
5. New business
6. Kudos

Members who participated in recent tabling opportunities received kudos for dedicating time to events that help move the visioning process forward.

7. Work group/subcommittee updates
 - a. Work group updates

Art Walk in the Park

Mike Mellas, Executive Director of Friends of the Arts, provided a comprehensive presentation outlining key components of the upcoming Art Walk. His insights offered valuable context for the commission to consider during event planning and execution.

The commission unanimously agreed to adopt the theme “*My Dream for My Community...*” in alignment with Vision 4.0. The HRC Art Walk is scheduled to take place in the morning on September 6, ahead of the larger art fair.

The commission identified two immediate priorities: promoting the Art Walk and finalizing logistical details to ensure a successful event.

Banned Book Brunch/Ice Cream Social

Commissioner Lawler Turnbull gave an update on the banned book brunch stating that the brunch is set for August 16, 2025 at 10am at Punch Bowl Social in St. Louis Park.

Commissioner Lawler Turnbull gave another update regarding the Ice Cream Social on August 5, 2025 in which the commission had been invited to table during the event. The commissioner agreed that they would determine everyone's availability and staff the event.

Tabling opportunities

Commissioner Kay and commissioner Bashore gave an update on the tabling opportunities that the commission could take advantage of. After discussion, it was a consensus of the commission that this subcommittee didn't need to continue its work as it is essentially merged into other efforts throughout the city.

Resource list

Commissioner Anderson provided an update on additional resources that may benefit city residents, along with a briefing on the Human Service Budget Bill. The bill has implications for organizations connected to the resources discussed in recent commission meetings. They also shared their intention to continue exploring the issue in greater depth and committed to reporting to the group with further findings.

Chair and staff updates

Vision 4.0

Mr. Coleman provided commissioners with an update on the current stage of the city staff's visioning process. This update included the outcomes of recent tabling opportunities, additional external artist engagements for future city events, survey responses, and encouraged commissioners to participate in upcoming tabling opportunities.

Current Appointment Process

Mr. Coleman informed staff that the appointment process to fill youth positions has begun and encouraged current eligible commissioner to reapply if still interested and encouraged all commissioners to assist with recruiting to fill seats.

Boards and commissions stipend program

Mr. Coleman informed the commissioners that they all should have received multiple emails regarding the boards and commissions stipend program, and if they had any questions to contact him directly.

HRC Resource Document

Mr. Coleman updated the commission on the status of their contributions to the citywide resource document online. He also informed them that he has continued to work with staff internally to move the process forward. The next steps of the process is to continue working with staff to generate a QR code and distribution materials for the commissioners to distribute when engaging with community.

Welcome Week

Mr. Coleman announced to the commission that the REI division would host a citywide Welcoming Week from September 12-21. Welcome week is a national initiative that brings together neighbors of all backgrounds to build strong connections and affirm the importance of welcoming and inclusive places in achieving collective prosperity.

8. Other business
9. Future agenda planning
10. Adjournment – 7:17 p.m.

Pat Coleman, liaison

Catherine Lawler, chair member