

Meeting minutes Human rights commission

Members present: Andrea Alvarez, Lee Conlife, Jackie Kay, Daniel Bashore, Otoha Masaki, Isabel Anderson, Catherine Lawler Turnbull, Cynthia Tlaiye, Akilah Anderson

Members absent: None

Guest: Camille Hepola, Axtell Group

Staff present: Pat Coleman, community engagement coordinator

1. Call to order – roll call – 6:05pm
2. Approval of agenda
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Alvarez, seconded by Commissioner Kay, to approve the agenda of the September 23, 2025 meeting. Motion carried
3. Approval of minutes
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Bashore, seconded by Commissioner Alvarez, to approve the meeting minutes of the August 19 , 2025 meeting. Motion carried
4. Old business
 - a. Human Rights Commission Check-In with City Council September 8, 2025
5. New business
 - a. Axtell Group: St. Louis Park Police Department

Camille Hepola, Engagement Lead at the Axtell Group, participated in the Human Rights Commission meeting to guide a discussion with commissioners aimed at enhancing outreach for the police department's current strategic priority initiative.

- b. Human Rights Award 2026

Commissioners took time to reflect on the Human Rights Awards, for which the commission oversees the citywide call for submissions and the selection process. After briefing new commissioners on the history and purpose of the awards, the group began discussing ideas and opportunities for the upcoming 2026 awards cycle.

Commissioner Lawler Turnbull noted that, historically, two awards were presented: one recognizing a group and another honoring an individual. The

commission reached a consensus to reinstate this dual-award format in the next call for submissions.

c. Workplan updates

Commissioner Lawler Turnbull provided an overview of the commission's workplan to help new members gain insight into past and ongoing efforts. Following the review, commissioners engaged in a brainstorming session to identify potential new initiatives for future workplan development. Ideas discussed included launching a book club, revisiting the Diversity Lens brochure, partnering with the REI division on upcoming projects, and exploring continued involvement with Vision 4.0.

The commission agreed to reconvene during the October meeting to further explore these proposed workplan ideas and begin planning for their implementation.

6. Kudos

Kudos were given to new commissioners for attending their first meeting, as well as all the commissioners who attended the Banned Book Brunch event hosted in collaboration with Children's First Literacy Festival.

7. Work group/subcommittee updates

a. Work group updates

Commissioner Bashore shared an update from the Resources Subcommittee regarding a Human Rights conference held in Washington, D.C. At the event, materials focused on supporting the LGBTQ community were obtained from the District of Columbia Office of Human Rights. These resources aim to foster understanding, reduce prejudice, and combat discrimination. The subcommittee and commission intend to explore how similar materials could be integrated into the resources distributed by the city.

8. Chair and staff updates

a. Vision 4.0

Mr. Coleman provided an update on the Vision 4.0 process. The update mentioned that the engagement period is almost complete. With that, there was a total of 25 events attended by city staff and volunteers, close to 500 completed surveys, and an extremely high amount of social media interactions. There is a report of all the engagement phase being put together by the consultant that staff is partnering with, and that report should go before city council before the end of the year.

9. Other business

10. Future agenda planning

Human rights commission meeting
Catherine Lawler

11. Adjournment – 7:37 p.m.