

## Brookings Human Rights Commission Minutes

**Tuesday, 16 September 2025, 5:30pm**

Brookings City/County Government Center and Zoom

### Attendance:

	Commissioners	Liaisons and Staff	
Attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dianne Nagy, Past Chair</li> <li>• Keely Eagleshield, Chair</li> <li>• Carla Gatzke, Recorder</li> <li>• Elizabeth Jeffcoat</li> <li>• Mark Aberle</li> <li>• Elena Friedman, SDSU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Casey Bell, Staff</li> <li>• Erin Lavender-Stott – LGBTQ Liaison</li> <li>• Midge Christensen, Police Dept Liaison</li> <li>• Marjoanne Collins, SDSU</li> <li>• Matilda Alex, SA Diversity</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	
Absent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhiannon Nedland</li> <li>• Nieema Thasing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lawrence Novotny, CLEAR Partners</li> <li>• Michele Vande Weerd, School District</li> </ul>	

Quorum was achieved and Keely opened the meeting.

Agenda: Motion duly made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously

Minutes: Motion duly made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Public comments – None

Introductions

### New Business

- City Council Retreat: Would like a brief presentation from HRC, to share our success, challenges and goals. The Commission provided input to Casey for the pptx. Keely and Mark will present to Council for HRC.
- Working Group restructuring: The Commission reviewed a draft proposal for 4 Working Groups: Advocacy, Education, Outreach, Communication. The Commission discussed and updated the draft. Further feedback is welcome, by 16 Sept. The Commission plans to approve at the next meeting. The Commission also discussed ideas for improving communication and file sharing.

### Old Business

- Meeting schedule: Continue to meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays.
- HRC membership: HRC has two vacancies. One candidate has been interviewed by the exec team and recommended for approval. County appointment vacancy remains.
- Budget: Casey reported that we're low on supplies (signs, clings, ...) and reminded the Commission we considered buying folding chairs. Motion duly made and seconded to allocate \$1,500 for those items. Motion passed unanimously. The Commission reconfirmed anticipated expenditures for consulting services to help complete the DEI Action Plan per the [City's Economic Development Master Plan](#) and for replacement Pride flags.

Liaisons

- Police department: Midge reported on hiring in the department, including a Deputy Chief. The department is proactively supporting current staff to become eligible for promotion. The City and department are more actively working toward a new facility.
- School district: Michele was not in attendance. The Commission plans to reach out to Michele to clarify liaison engagement and opportunities for HRC to partner with the district. The Commission will also discuss with Michele the MLK essay and poster contests. Discussion on MLK contest included asking for volunteers to lead the program, engagement with the school, more than essays, (perhaps considering the National History contest framework).
- SDSU SA: Matilda shared about India Day on Sunday 21 Oct at the Volstorff Ballroom.
- LGBTQ+: Erin reported on Pride activities. Oct 4 at the Library is Hidden Queers. Oct 8 is What Matters to Me conversations with trans neighbors event in Sioux Falls. The Commission discussed a hate crime against an LGBTQ+ individual, and that Sioux Falls has no ordinance against hate crimes and SD has no law against hate crimes. Midge will learn more about Brookings ordinances. SDSU has a Two Spirit event on 17 Sept and plans for a GSA Professional Drag Show on 13 November.

#### Task Forces

- No reports

#### Working Groups

- LGBTQ Awareness: Casey reported on the letter to Ray's Corner that the City has authorized Pride to put a flag on the pole on the same corner. The Ray's Corner tried to get the Military Committee to support not putting up a flag, and the Committee declined. HRC offered to meet with Ray's Corner representative if they're interested in a dialogue.
- Indigenous People: Tomorrow is a Two Spirit event at American Indian center at SDSU at 6-8pm. Oct 13 is Indigenous People's Day. Wed Oct 15 at 4-6pm is tentatively MIR walk/vigil (Missing Indigenous Relatives).
- Training: Jen Dreiske will provide Bystander Upstander training on Thursday 25 September, upstairs at the library.
- Social Media – Keely reported on developing a system to post consistently.
- Complaint process: Casey reported on receiving a complaint, our first since the new ordinance that focuses us on helping guide people to appropriate resources. The complaint is due to denial of a service animal in an apartment. The individual is working through HUD. There may be a resource in Sioux Falls we could connect the individual with.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.