

Brookings Human Rights Commission Minutes

Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 5:00 pm

Brookings City/County Government Center and Zoom

Attendance:

	Commissioners	Liaisons	
Attendees	• Mark Aberle, vice-chair • Dianne Nagy, • Carla Gatzke, Recorder • Keely Eagleshield, Chair • Sydnie Peters • Shola Aromona	• Casey Bell, Staff • Lawrence Novotny, CLEAR Partners • Chief Michael Drake, Bkgs/Univ Police	
Absent	• Logan Hoffman •	• Erin Lavender-Stott – LGBTQ Liaison • Midge Christianson, Police Department Liaison • Marjoanne Collins, SDSU • Teri Johnson, School District	

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm.

Motion was duly made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Motion was duly made and seconded to approve the minutes of the April meeting. Motion passed.

Police Department report: Midge is at a training; Chief Drake reported. Staffing and activities are going well. Planning is progressing for the new facility in the SE corner of the Dakota Bank Center. Prepared for upcoming activities, including Wall That Heals, Backroads Tour, Pride, Juneteenth, July 4th Uncle Sam Jam, and Arts in the Park. Also prepared to warn and protect the public during severe weather. The investigation was completed on the video at the Vault a few months ago – not enough probable cause for arrest, turned over to State’s Attorney for independent review. HRC asked for followup on possible public statement, preferably prior to Juneteenth. Chief Drake excused himself for a meeting.

New Business

- Mayor’s Awards – Casey will followup to advertise for nominations for the Butler Award and Youth Award. Casey will send HRC members the application and a list of previous recipients, to help us think of nominations. Send suggestions to Casey; deadline is end of July.

[Mark temporarily excused himself to attend the City Council meeting and accept the Juneteenth proclamation.]

- Backroads Tour – at the last meeting Kathy Vanderwal explained about the program and shared materials. HRC discussed how to help with communication, and decided to have a table at the event.
- Juneteenth – Dianne offered to grill pork and give away sandwiches. That offer was accepted; Keely will purchase food and supplies. Lawrence will bring water and cups. HRC will reimburse costs based on previous approval. There was a call for tables/activities; we received

5 responses. HRC discussed our table, games from the library, advertising, and other details. Sydnie will staff the HRC table..

[Mark returned and Casey excused himself for the City Council meeting.]

- Pride – Planning is progressing well: 30+vendors are confirmed, 5 performers. A request will go out for someone to staff the HRC table.

No updates to the Budget.

No further Liaison Reports.

Working Groups:

- Communications: HRC discussed concerns that the Juneteenth news release is not yet published. The Social Media team found a calendar of recognition days/months. They'll work on a way for people to suggest areas of interest for HRC to create activities around.
- Events: Summer is busy, especially June. HRC discussed possible future events.
- Education: At Juneteenth there will be a reading about the value of intentional conversation. HRC discussed a way to engage people and make progress, such as a QR code where people could express interest in future conversations.

Dianne will be out for 6 weeks starting 22 June.