

Brookings Human Rights Commission Minutes

Tuesday, 18 November 2025, 5:30pm

Brookings City/County Government Center and Zoom

Attendance:

	Commissioners	Liaisons and Staff
Attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dianne Nagy, Past Chair ● Keely Eagleshield, Chair ● Nieema Thasing ● Mark Aberle ● Elena Friedman, SDSU ● Sydnie Peters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Casey Bell, Staff ● Midge Christensen, Police Dept Liaison ● Matilda Alex, SA Diversity
Absent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carla Gatzke, Recorder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teri Johnson, School District ● Marjoanne Collins, SDSU ● Lawrence Novotny, CLEAR Partners ● Erin Lavender-Stott – LGBTQ Liaison

Quorum was achieved.

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

New Business

- City received MEI score of 100!

Old Business

- Work Groups: voting members were assigned to Work Groups based on recent poll.
- HRC membership: Elizabeth Jeffcoat resigned from HRC. Currently, 3 vacancies remain. City Council may take action on one HRC application at the November 25th City Council meeting.
- Budget: Casey requested an additional \$1000 to pay for merchandise. Motion passed with one member abstaining. Group discussed why HRC uses CleanSlate Design for merch purchases. Alternative options were considered. The Communications working group will evaluate alternative vendor options for merch.
- Brookings Multicultural Center - Dinner and Dance event: Small task force will be meeting to evaluate HRC’s partnership with the upcoming event. Should funding be recommended, HRC will vote via email on funding commitment amounts.
- Awards: Mayor’s Holiday party is on December 3rd. The event will highlight Mayor awardees - including the Butler and Youth awards. HRC members and liaisons are encouraged to attend. Casey will send out a calendar invite.

Liaisons

- Police department: Midge reported on the PD's upcoming Blue-Envelope project to support members of the community with disabilities. The Deputy Chief of Police hopes to attend the next meeting.
- School district: Teri reported on the school board vacancy filling. She also encourages the Commission to go to the District's website for current and relevant information occurring at the Brookings schools.
- SDSU: no reports
- CLEAR: no reports
- SDSU SA: Matilda invites the Commission to the African Students' Association and Black Students' Alliance's Thanksgiving Potluck on Thursday November 26th from 6:30pm - 8:30pm at the Brookings Multicultural Center.
- LGBTQ+: no reports

Task Forces

- PEAK: Nieema reported the School Superintendent is still supportive of the PEAK campaign and hopes to connect with her after the holidays.
- DEI Initiative: No report

Working Groups

- Leads were identified for each working group
- Advocacy
- Education: This working group will discuss and coordinate Bystander to Upstander training for City Council in 2026.
- Outreach
- Communications

The meeting adjourned at about 6:30pm.