

Brookings Human Rights Commission Minutes

Wednesday, 17 June 2025, 5:30pm

Brookings City/County Government Center and Zoom

Attendance:

	Commissioners	Liaisons	
Attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keely Eagleshield, Vice Chair• Carla Gatzke, Recorder• Elena Friedman• Rhiannon Nedland• 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Casey Bell, Staff• Lawrence Novotny, CLEAR Partners• Erin Lavender-Stott – LGBTQ Liaison• 	
Absent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dianne Nagy, Chair• Nieema Thasing• Elizabeth Jeffcoat• 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marjoanne Collins, SDSU• Chief Drake, Police Department Liaison• Oscar Garcia, SA Diversity• Michele Vande Weerd, School District	

Quorum was achieved and staff liaison opened the meeting.

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

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

Public comments

- Pride flags are on Main Avenue, 2 complaints. City continues to support.

New Business

- Letter of support – Keely shared a request from Harvest Hope, staff and students at SDSU, request letter in support of a grant to bring visibility to indigenous people in our community. The discussion was in support of a letter, pending review of a written request and draft letter. Motion and second to approve the chair and staff liaison to review the written request and make decision on a letter. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- HRC Meeting schedule: for July and August concurred on 3rd Tuesday of the month, if that works for Dianne.
- HRC Membership – currently have 7 active commission members and are actively looking for 3 new commission members. Deadline for applications is end of June. Have one application carried over from previous search.
- Budget: have spent approximately less than 1/3 our budget for the year. The Commission discussed the idea of having a booth at one of the Downtown at Sundown events, to communicate more about HRC. Keely will followup with the Chamber.

Liaisons

- Police department – Casey reported the department is soliciting applications for [a deputy police chief](#) and for an executive coordinator.
- LGBTQ+ - Erin reported on the Pride event this coming Saturday at Pioneer, 11-3pm.

Working Groups

- Juneteenth – Keely reported that on marketing for Juneteenth event this week Thursday. [Press Release link](#)
- Indigenous People – Keely planning to meet with Summer Arts Council about guidelines and intending to plan an Indigenous People's festival in the fall.
- Training – Rhiannon reported on communications with trainer for Upstander/Bystander training. The Commission discussed making it open to the public and holding it in City/County Chambers, on an upcoming Thursday evening. Motion and second to approve up to \$350. Motion passed unanimously. The Working Group will review activities on campus that might be useful for HRC members to attend.
- Social Media – Keely reported on recent postings. The Commission discussed the oversight by the City communications department, which enables us to be able to make our own posts. If anyone is interested in helping, see Keely.
- Community Outreach – Lawrence reported on the Bulter Award and [Youth Award news release](#). See the HRC site for more info: <https://www.cityofbrookings-sd.gov/429/Awards>. Send suggestions for recipients to Lawrence or Casey.
- Complaint process – Casey reported the proposed ordinance changes are scheduled for Council consideration at their meetings on Tuesday 8 July and Tuesday 22 July at 6pm. All HRC members are encouraged to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45.