

**Brookings Human Rights Commission Minutes**  
**Wednesday, 18 July 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>• Rhiannon Nedland (joined after Butler Award vote)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Casey Bell, Staff</li> <li>• Lawrence Novotny, CLEAR Partners</li> <li>• Erin Lavender-Stott – LGBTQ Liaison</li> <li>• Chief Drake, Police Department Liaison</li> <li>• City Clerk Bonnie Foster</li> </ul>
Absent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhiannon Nedland</li> <li>• Nieema Thasing</li> <li>• Elena Friedman, SDSU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marjoanne Collins, SDSU</li> <li>• Oscar Garcia, SA Diversity</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

SD Open Meetings Laws Review – City Clerk Bonnie Foster presented a review of the Open Meeting Laws as required by SD law. Bonnie shared the SD Open Meetings Laws Brochure and presented a Power Point about the laws. Bonnie emphasized that the Teleconference definition includes email – which is why HRC should always BCC members for any email to enough board members that would constitute a quorum.

**New Business**

- Multicultural Center / SDSU Welcome for International Students – tomorrow, 7-9pm, at Good Roots. HRC will have a table: Keely and Erin will staff it for HRC.
- Butler Award – the HRC had received a nomination for Van Fishback by a former recipient. After discussion, motion was duly made and seconded to nominate Van and Barb Fishback for the Butler Award for 2025. Motion passed unanimously. Lawrence volunteered to write the press release, after the HRC notifies Van and Barb about their award.
- Youth Award – Motion was duly made to nominate Tom Reynolds for the Youth Award for 2025. Motion passed unanimously. Keely will work on a news release.
- Working Group restructuring – the Commission reviewed each Working Group’s purpose and activities. We have learned about another community our size, Cedar Falls IA, which has fewer Working Groups with broader focuses. The Commission considered: Policy, Education, Outreach/Communication. Casey will share a document for members to add their thoughts as they have time.

## Old Business

- Election of Vice-Chair – After review of the role and discussion, motion was duly made and seconded to elect Mark Aberle as Vice-Chair. Motion passed unanimously.
- Ongoing meeting schedule – Keely will send a survey for the Fall semester.
- HRC membership – HRC has two vacancies – one a county appointment and one a city appointment. We have 1 application.
- Budget – Casey reported expenditures. HRC currently has \$14k in funds, including 2025 City funding, plus carryover and donations. We anticipate a significant expenditure for consulting services to complete the DEI Action Plan per the [City's Economic Development Master Plan](#).
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## Liaisons

- Police department – Chief Drake reported on upcoming community activities as SDSU students return to town. Has hired a deputy chief of police, to be announced soon. And has hired an executive coordinator, essentially a chief of staff, Midge Christensen. The Chief responded to HRC questions on the recent law allowing firearms in public facilities, including SDSU and the City/County Building.
- LGBTQ+ – Erin reported that Pride met and is planning a transgender event on 4 October, and a community event in late October or early November. SDSU has a Two Spirit event on 17 Sept and a GSA Professional Drag Show on 13 November. Pride is beginning planning for the Pride event next summer. Keely reported that a letter to Ray's Corner from HRC will be sent soon, informing them of the City's right to put a Pride flag on the pole in front of their building.

## Task Forces

- DEI – will restart activities now that complaint ordinance has been changed.

## Working Groups

- Indigenous People – Keely is planning for a celebration in October. And building social media pages to support the event. She is also planning a community collaborative on 6 November.
- Training – Rhiannon reported that Jen Dreiske will provide Bystander Upstander training on Thursday 25 September, for up to 50 people, potentially in Council Chambers which would enable recording.
- Social Media – Keely working on an online schedule to manage posts.
- Inclusivity/Community Outreach – no plans.
- Complaint process – Council unanimously approved the updated ordinance that focused HRC on community outreach and education, and providing support to the community in filing complaints to EEOC, HUD, and other organizations.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.