

Brookings Human Rights Commission Minutes

Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 5:00 pm

Brookings City/County Government Center and Zoom

Attendance:

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

Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm.

Lawrence Novotny served as recorder due to the recorder's absence.

Aberle moved, Nagy seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Aberle moved, Nagy seconded, to approve the minutes of the April meeting. Motion passed.

No public comment.

No new business.

Creating Narratives Together

Discussion on program that was held in SDSU Student Union on April 28.

Around 10 people participated which consisted of BHRC current and former members and staff of the SDSU Multi-Cultural Center. No students attended.

It was a small and intimate discussion that included diverse perspectives.

Obtained some information materials that will be distributed at the Juneteenth event.

SDSU wants to continue these conversations and spread them out over the next school year; possibly combining the discussions with SDSU COMMunity events.

We hope to offer similar discussions to the Brookings public.

Backroads Tour

Cathy VanderVal, a Brookings community member and one of the organizers, distributed handouts about the upcoming Backroads Tour to be held in Pioneer Park on June 16 from 5:30 – 9 pm.

The tour is a music and storytelling event celebrating America's 250th Anniversary.

It will feature 3 musicians including locally raised Eric Powell Holm.

Brookings is one of 16 cities across the U.S. to host the tour.

The goal of the tour organizers is to celebrate the uniqueness of rural communities.

Organizations are welcome to have information tables at the event but there will be no vendor sales.

HRC is invited to have a table.

Daktronics is provided a video setup.

There will be a video and audio recording kiosk that will focus on recording local histories including those of Native Americans.

The local organizers are reaching out to businesses who have a large diverse workforce to invite to the event and also to help sponsor the tour.

VanderVal is hoping to raise \$5200 locally to sponsor the tour.

Eagle Shield will conduct an e-mail vote of the HRC about making a financial donation to help sponsor the tour.

Other Old Business

No update on Safe Zone training.

Know Your Rights Signs: need to work on promoting the signs via social media.

Distribute signs on upcoming summer HRC events.

HRC Membership:

A student applicant is scheduled for an interview.

Aberle to visit with Bell about seeking a way to fill the county vacancy. Maybe have a current HRC member transferred to the county position and replace that person with a new applicant.

Liaison Reports

Brookings Police Dept: is gearing up for summer events.

The mayor sent a letter to the owner and manager of Ray's Corner informing them that the Pride flags will be displayed from June 21 – 28 and asking them to remove the U.S. flag from the city pole along Main Avenue before June 21.

Brookings Pride is requesting to have police presence while they are putting out the flags.

CLEAR Partners: hosted a public forum on May 18 for the two sheriff candidates who are running on the Republican primary ballot. The forum recording is available on Brookings Area Indivisible Facebook.

Brookings Public Library is asking publicity assistance for their Juneteenth events – a speaker on June 10 and a film on June 24.

Work Groups

Outreach: The actors program has been cancelled due to no availability.
Will plan a program or panel focusing on Creating Narratives.

Adjourn

Meeting Date

The next HRC meeting will occur at the same time as the Backroads Tour.
A poll will be conducted about changing the June meeting date.

Bystander Upstander Training:

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm so members could attend the Bystander to Upstander training that was conducted during the City Council's study session.