

Brookings Human Rights Commission Minutes

Wednesday, 15 July 2025, 5:30pm

Brookings City/County Government Center and Zoom

Attendance:

	Commissioners	Liaisons	
Attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dianne Nagy, Chair• Nieema Thasing• Keely Eagleshield, Vice Chair• Carla Gatzke, Recorder• Elizabeth Jeffcoat• Elena Friedman• 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Casey Bell, Staff• Lawrence Novotny, CLEAR Partners• Erin Lavender-Stott – LGBTQ Liaison• Chief Drake, Police Department Liaison• 	
Absent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rhiannon Nedland• • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marjoanne Collins, SDSU• 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 the agenda. Motion passed unanimously

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

Public comments

- We received an emailed complaint about a housing concern which Casey directed to HUD.
- Guest Jen Dreiske shared about a social media interaction where she commented on a post and another person responded with hate-comments about Jewish people. Jen asked that HRC continue to provide education opportunities to empower people to stand up against hate, and offered suggestions for enabling people through our social media posts.

New Business

- Election of Vice-Chair – Currently Dianne is chair, Keely is vice chair and Nieema is past chair. In August we transition officers: Dianne would move to past chair and Keely to chair, and we would elect a vice chair. There was good discussion of candidates but no formal recommendations. We'll start August with no vice chair. Casey will talk with some members. Self-nominations are welcome.
- New meeting times – We discussed potentially changing times for the Fall. Keely will send a poll to consider if/when to change. If no new time is announced, plan to meet the 3rd Tuesday at 5:30pm.

Old Business

- Fill open positions – We have 3 vacancies. Interviewing one applicant tomorrow. Casey encouraged Commissioners to invite people to apply.
- Budget – Casey reported expenditures. Our spending for 2025 is below budget.

- Butler Award and Youth Award – deadline for applications is Friday 1 August. We have not received any applications. HRC can nominate candidates if we receive no applications. HRC members are not eligible. The Commission recognized Keely for community outreach and social media efforts on behalf of HRC.

Liaisons

- Police department – Chief Drake reported that the department is seeking accreditation, and is strengthening its staffing, policies, and training per the accreditation guidelines. On behalf of Pride, Erin thanked the department for the police presence and support during the Pride event.
- LGBTQ+ – Erin reported that the Pride Committee met and debriefed on the Pride celebration and began planning for next year. Planning monthly activities / open space at Cottonwood.

Task Forces

- PEAK – is paused due to other activities at the school district.
- DEI – has been paused. Anticipate restarting in October.

Working Groups

- Juneteenth – Keely shared about the positive feedback we received at the HRC table, and overall the event went well.
- Pride event – Lawrence reported that the flag was removed from the pole in front of Ray's corner. Propose for next year we communicate proactively with the business that the poles are owned by the City and the Commission has approval to put flags up. Motion was duly made and seconded that the City send a letter next year to the business owners before putting up the flags. Motion passed unanimously.
- Indigenous People – Keely is starting to plan for the Indigenous People celebration in November. Keely also offered to speak 1-1 or to organizations about Indigenous People.
- Training – Rhiannon had previously contacted Jen Dreiske about offering Bystander Upstander training. Jen is open to public trainings, as long as we provide people to help address disruption.
- Social Media – Keely suggested that Social Media and Community Outreach be combined.
- Community Outreach –
 - Considering an HRC booth at Downtown at Sundown. Keely and Casey will connect on the process, and then will choose a date.
 - Also, the Multicultural Center is hosting annual international students welcome event on 20 August 7-9pm at Good Roots. Some Commissioners offered to staff a booth so we decided.
 - Lawrence would like to resign from chair.
 - Listening Sessions – Keely would like to help with these in the future.
- Complaint process – Casey and Lawrence and Carla attended City Council to present the proposed ordinance change. Council members voiced support. One person posted a criticism

on social media. 2nd reading is next week Tuesday 22 July. All HRC members are encouraged to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 7pm.