

Human Rights Commission Action Plan Committee Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2025

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present (all by zoom) were Liz Aeschlimann, Susan Musinsky, and Sarah Zoen.

3. Acceptance of Minutes

a. Minutes for Previous Meeting

Sarah Zoen made a motion, seconded by Susan Musinsky, to approve the minutes. The motion was approved three to zero.

4. Discussion

a. Human Rights Commission 2025-2026 Action Plan

Discussion centered around approving the criteria for event partnership that the HRC will adopt. Criteria discussed were alignment with the HRC's mission, impact on the community, the event organizer's relationship with the HRC, and the ability of an event to advance education and awareness of human rights issues. The Committee also confirmed that \$1700 remains unspent in the HRC budget.

The committee discussed the following levels of partnership for events:

Level 4: lead or play a significant role in organizing an event or initiative

Level 3: endorse/co-sponsor and collaborate

Level 2: Endorse/Co-sponsor and contribute funds

Level 1: Endorse/Co-sponsor

The following events were assigned levels of partnership and funding amounts:

Pride: Level 2, \$200

Juneteenth: Level 2, \$700

Indigenous People's Day: Level TBD, \$100

Human Rights Day: Level 4, \$500

MLK Day: Level 1 or 2, \$0

The committee concluded by discussing a scope of work plan for a consultant to conduct a needs assessment of human rights issues in Watertown. The committee agreed to draft a scope of work for a consultant and to allocate roughly \$2500-\$3000 to pay for the consultant. The committee discussed potentially spending the remainder of its FY25 budget on an up-front payment for the consultant and paying off the remainder of the fee with FY26 funds.

5. Public Comment

No member of the public offered comment.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 PM.