

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2025

1. Call to Order

Sarah Zoen called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM

2. Roll Call

Present were Commission members Sarah Zoen, Mel Poindexter, Gabriel Camacho (via zoom), Corey Barr, Xin Peng, Lisa Laplante, Liz Aeschlimann, and Susan Musinsky.

3. Acceptance of Minutes

a. Minutes 11.10.25

Sarah Zoen made a motion, seconded by Corey Barr, to approve the minutes. The Commission voted eight to zero to approve the motion.

4. Public Comment

No member of the public offered comment.

5. Committee Reports

a. Immigrant Rights Committee: 12/1 meeting; Approval of minutes; Update to Immigration Enforcement Statement; Draft Letter to City Council

Corey Barr described for the Commission the edits which were made to the Commission's existing statement on immigration enforcement activity. The Commission agreed to keep the language general enough that the statement does not become obsolete with further ICE action taking place in various areas. Lisa Laplante made a motion, seconded by Liz Aeschlimann, to approve the statement with the following edits:

- Hyperlink to the Lunn v. Commonwealth Supreme Judicial Court decision
- Link to a document from the Attorney General's Office summarizing the Lunn decision
- Change "enforcement actions" to "ICE actions"
- Link to the police department's brochure on its immigration policy
- Move the statement to the top of the HRC's statements page

The Commission voted eight to zero to approve the motion.

The Commission then discussed a draft letter by Xin Peng to the City Council concerning the city's contract with Flock Safety for license plate cameras in Watertown. Sarah Zoen

made a motion, seconded by Corey Barr, to approve the letter for Xin to send to the Council. The Commission voted eight to zero to approve the motion.

- b. Action Plan Committee: Approval of Minutes; Ongoing Needs Assessment; Priorities for 2026

Sarah Zoen made a motion, seconded by Mel Poindexter, to approve the minutes from the past Action Plan Committee meeting. The Commission voted eight to zero to approve the motion. The Commission then discussed the report from Liz Peck on the Human Rights Commission's needs assessment, expressing gratitude for her work and considering how the Commission can move forward. The Commission then discussed Human Rights Day on December 10th, and asking the city to make a social media post acknowledging the day. Lisa Laplante made a motion, seconded by Mel Poindexter, to ask the city to make such a post. The Commission voted eight to zero to approve the motion.

- c. Logo Committee: Approval of Minutes; Status of Contest & Process for moving forward

Lisa Laplante made a motion, seconded by Susan Musinsky, that Liz Aeschlimann be formally added to the Logo Committee. The Commission voted eight to zero to approve the motion. The Commission then discussed the logos which have already been submitted from students and planned to make further efforts to engage the student body.

6. Public Comment

No member of the public offered comment.

7. Discussion

- a. Movie on Immigrant Experience Screening on January 25th in Partnership with the Library

Susan Musinsky shared that a friend of hers has produced a movie related to the immigrant experience and immigration enforcement. She is working with the library to screen the movie. Lisa Laplante made a motion, seconded by Susan Musinsky, to allocate up to \$300 to support this screening. The Commission voted eight to zero to approve the motion.

- b. Human Rights Commission FY26 Budget

Doug Newton informed the Commission that the remainder of its FY26 budget is now \$3,750.

- c. Student Liaison Involvement in Human Rights Commission Work

The Commission discussed ways in which the student liaisons and the student body as a whole can be more involved in the work of the Human Rights Commission.

d. Human Rights Commission Work on Domestic Violence Awareness

Corey Barr encouraged the Commission to consider in the present and future ways in which it can be a positive force on the issue of domestic violence, especially in light of a recent tragedy in Watertown.

e. Coordinating with Neighboring Human Rights Commissions

Mel Poindexter shared that some neighboring Human Rights Commissions are considering setting up a training event on peaceful conflict resolution. These would likely be in January and February of 2026. Mel Poindexter made a motion, seconded by Lisa Laplante, to support up to \$300 to support these events. The Commission voted eight to zero to approve the motion.

f. Watertown Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results

Xin Peng updated the Commission on results from the recent Youth Risk Behavior Survey, which showed concerning results on youth mental health, particularly for those in the LGBTQ+ community. Dr. Ceronne Daly shared that school officials are reviewing and using the data to inform their practice.

8. Public Comment

No member of the public offered comment.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.