



Human Rights Commission

Regular Meeting | June 15, 2026 | 3:30 – 4:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | Room 10 North

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Casey Bakhsh, Whitney Cipolla, Dezeray Edwards, Drew France, Anthony Meadows, Katie Eller Murray, Parisa Pilehvar, Joyce Roberts, Andrea Walker

Commissioners Absent: Ana Barros, Larissa McNeil, Amanda Peregrina, Tamecca Rogers, Joshua Starks, Dave Walker

I. **Call to Order**

- a. Chairman France called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm.

II. **Approve Meeting Minutes**

- a. Chairman France entertained a motion to approve the May meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Eller Murray made a motion, Commissioner Meadows seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 9, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, May meeting minutes approved.

III. **Action: Chairman France Appoints Humanitarian of the Year Award Review Committee Chair**

- a. Chairman France noted that this will be the 5th year of the Humanitarian of the Year Award Ceremony (HOTY).
- b. Need an ad-hoc HOTY Committee of three commissioners to lead the nomination, review, and selection process and support event planning.
- c. Commissioners Eller Murray, Cipolla, and Bakhsh volunteered to serve.
- d. Chairman France appointed Commissioners Eller Murray, Cipolla, and Bakhsh to the Humanitarian of the Year Award Review Committee.

IV. **Chair / Vice Chair Report**

- a. The 2025 Equality Indicators Report was released last week.
 - i. Indicator 50: Government representation score raised from 46 to 47.
 - ii. Indicator 49: Voter turnout score remained flat at 46.
 - iii. Report release event on July 7 at Tulsa Area United Way.
 - iv. Commissioner Cipolla highlighted an ask from the 2SLGBTQIA+ Committee to highlight the City's Municipal Equality Index (MEI) score in data conversations. Chairman France invited her to present on MEI at a future HRC meeting.
- b. Chairman France attended the Mayor's Community Conversation in north Tulsa and encouraged commissioners to attend the last conversation on June 23.
- c. Chairman France reminded commissioners the HRC doesn't meet in July.



V. Updates on HRC Goals

- a. Commissioner Eller Murray: Goal 1 – Improve access to the City of Tulsa Department of Resilience and Equity’s resources
 - i. Commissioner Eller Murray commended Commissioner Roberts for her work to advance this goal.
 - ii. Chairman France met with Black Tech Street (at the mayor’s suggestion) to discuss opportunities to modernize the human rights complaints process with technology advancements. He provided a handout summarizing the pitch and is awaiting a response.
 - iii. Chairman France, Commissioner Roberts, La Kendra, and Lexi met with Councilor Gilbert who drafted updates to the Human Rights Ordinance, including deleting the City Clerk as the initial recipient of complaints to remove barriers to Tulsans filing a complaint.
 - iv. Commissioner Eller Murray is working to define what success looks like in terms of volume of complaints by looking at peer cities to see what volume they receive.
- b. Commissioner Pilehvar Goal 2 – Increase diverse representation and equitable recruitment practices across all City of Tulsa ABCs
 - i. Councilor Dutton invited HRC to speak to City Council at next week’s Public Works Committee meeting at 2:30 pm.
 - 1. Councilor Dutton was in attendance, and she shared she wants to see more representation in the ABCs, as she serves a district that is underrepresented.
 - 2. Commissioner Cipolla noted that the Tulsa Documenters program could benefit from more civic engagement and the volunteer base of almost 180 documenters spans geography and demographics.

VI. Committee, Liaison, and Title V Commissions Calls for Action

- a. Commissioner Andrea Walker: Compassionate Tulsa
 - i. Compassionate Tulsa is an HRC initiative of HRC that brought the Charter for Compassion to Tulsa. The City Council at the time affirmed Tulsa as a compassionate community. Commissioner Walker encouraged commissioners who are interested in learning about Compassionate Tulsa and considering joining the committee.
- b. Commissioner Edwards shared about TWC’s presentation at Leadership Tulsa’s Women’s Leadership Summit.
- c. Commissioner Bakhsh reported that the Fair Housing Committee created a flyer about support animals to distribute to agencies that receive HUD funding. Will also partner with LIFE Senior Services to host a fair housing summit focused on older individuals.

VII. Old Business – no old business

VIII. New Business – no new business

IX. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Prism is a new program for queer and allied youth hosted by the Tulsa Performing Arts Center, launch party June 27 from 2 – 4 pm.



- b. July 21: TYPROS Pub Club and Commissions Fair
- c. July 24: Title V and Beyond Apology Commissions Retreat
- d. Public Comments:
 - i. The four interns with the Department of Resilience and Equity introduced themselves.

X. Adjournment

- a. Chairman France entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. Commissioner Cipolla made a motion, Commissioner Pilehvar seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 9, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 4:18 pm.