



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 5:30 PM

**Meeting Room in the Charles S. Crandall Center at City
Hall, 540 West Hills Circle**

**Commissioners: Jessica Bjore, Edgar Esquivel,
Jennifer Hansen, Josiah Hult, Mustafe Ismael
Sherry Hill and Julia Seykora**

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Agenda

5. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

5.1. OHRC Meeting Minutes - March 10, 2026

6. Commissioner's Comments

7. Items of Discussion

7.1. Approval of Purchase of Shirt & Name Tags from HRC Budget

7.2. Recap AGE Bystander to Upstander Event

7.3. Volunteer Fair - April 27

7.4. Community Connect - April 29

7.5. AGE Sneaker Ball - May 30

7.6. Pride in the Park - July 11

7.7. Human Library - September 3

7.8. Meeting at the Field

7.9. ICE Updates

8. Public Comments

9. Adjournment

Owatonna Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2026

Agenda – March 10, 2026

1. Call to Order Motion by:

Bjore at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call: Sherry Hill, Joshia Hult (Teams), Sam Bendorf, Gretchen Zinsli, Jessica Bjore

Community Member in attendance: Clark Gustafson

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Agenda:

by Bendorf, second by Hill

5. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Approved January minutes by: Hill Second by: Bjore

6. Commissioner Updates / Announcements

- Edgar is missing the meeting due to a family medical issue. The Hult family is nearly ready to come home.
- Hill provided an update on a grant proposal from the MN State Art Board – Maybe for a possible mural or a sculpture, but limited to the art focus. A project plan is needed before you can apply. Good for a future project \$2k-\$25k. The Mural down by the Blast is positive and has not been vandalized.

7. Items of Discussion

7.1 2

2026 MLK Jr. Day Event recap- January 19, 2026:

The Commission commented on the four good, equally quality panelists. We could have them back for a second year. Possibly looked into different panelists. Good feedback from the panelists and guests. One suggestion was to move the food to the hallway instead of right

when they walk in. AGE should have been looped in sooner; they provided a resource table, but would like advance notice.

Gustafson noted that the Rep. Sexton Republican Party opposes DEI, but it was great that he was there. Sam would like some of the questions to be more focused and phrased, and to do heavy lifting. Discussion about more input on the questions.

City Leadership meeting recap- January 29, 2026:

Pride in the Park meeting with City Staff. Everything is moving in a positive direction. The protest area is being discussed to have a designated area. The interior sidewalk is being discussed on how to manage the area. Police will be present at the event. The new ordinances' noise and non-interference will help profit tools to manage the event. Discussion of musical instruments to help drown out negative messages. It's not an HRC event; we only have a tent there during the event.

OCLA meeting recap- February 10, 2026 Work Plan Review & Updates:

OCLA Cultural Diversity Day- Bjore shared a message with them, and she was able to join the Mosque visit, and they were very welcoming.

7.2 Co2026 Activities

Bystander to Upstander by AGE signup- March 18 – 6:30.

This event is a classroom setting on how we can do better when shit happens, at the Middle School.

Bystander to Upstander by AGE signup- April 15 -

Another event is the same as above; one can go to both, with different themes. Would anyone be available to attend so Jessica can register them? Hill and Bjore can do the 18th, Sam and Gretchen can do the 18th. Joshia would like to be tentative per his schedule. This will support AGE, They support HRC

Community Connects by Community Pathways signup- April 29th:

Wednesday, noon to 4 p.m., Four Seasons, HRC had a table last year, one-hour shift signups to help cover the booth. Julia will do noon-1, Jessica can cover a couple of the slots, and Gretchen can do the 1-2 shift. The event brings community resources all in one spot, great networking event.

Update on events not yet scheduled this year:

HRC participated in some events last year that are not on the calendar yet. The Hispanic group has canceled its May 5 event because of the current Administration's practices.

Pride in the Park by AGE signup- July 11 –

Community Nonprofit is \$10 to sign up for the event. It is possible to use a city credit card to process the registration. Motion by: Bjore. Second by: Gretchen.

Human Library at Downtown Thursdays- September 3,
the event is from 5p-8p. Please put it on your calendar

Meeting on the Field Saturday, September 5,

this event will happen again at the soccer field. Bringing the community together. Without Mustaf, it will be difficult to coordinate. Rec on the Go was there for additional games.

Jessica wanted to know if anyone can't make the downtown on Thursday or the Meeting on the field. At this time, most believe they can go. The Human Book event needs the support of all the Commissioners to help coordinate, since Jen is not with the Commission. Possibly reinvite last year, since the weather was not good. The police department would like to participate in the book; they should contact Chief Mundale.

7.3 Event Planning: Diversity & Inclusion Activities

Community Pathways/OHRC toilet paper drive – the April date is too challenging to meet this date for the fundraiser. Discussion was to move it to the fall or try for next spring.

ICE updates:

Bjore has not heard any updates; other commissioners have not heard of any activity. There was some action at the trailer park and Lakeside Foods earlier, but nothing recently.

7.4 Follow-up on Community Concerns / Public Feedback

Gustafson has attended two Friday meetings with Rep. Tom Sexton. Sexton asked Gustafson to contact him if they were afraid. A second question Gustafson asked is whether MN is being denied medical public assistance due to retaliation for the proposed fraud situation? There are vulnerable groups of aging seniors, including those with mental health issues. Smaller Nurses Homes are they getting funded and being reimbursed because of the Big Beautiful Bill he asked the State Rep.

Get out and vote when you can. Polling watchers could be needed.

7.5 Partnership Opportunities with Local Organizations

8. Public Comments: Gustafson notes are above

9. Other Business (as time allows)

10. Adjournment by:

6:30 pm By Bjore and Zinsli

Minutes submitted by Jenna Tuma