

Owatonna Human Rights Commission
Minutes – May 12, 2026

The Owatonna Human Rights Commission (OHRC) met on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, in the Meeting Room of the Charles S. Crandall Center at City Hall. Chairman Bjore called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were Commissioners Bjore, Bendor, Hult, and Zinsli and Administrative Coordinator Clawson. Commissioners Seykora and Hill were unable to attend.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Bjore welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioner Hult made a motion to approve the Meeting Agenda as presented, Commissioner Zinsli seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval. Following review of the April 12, 2026 OHRC Meeting Minutes, Commissioner Bjore requested minor clerical update and then made a motion for approval. Commissioner Bendorf seconded the motion, and all members present voted aye in approval.

Items of Discussion

Current Member Opening: There is currently an open seat on the OHRC. Members will encourage potential members to apply when the application is available on the city's website.

Give Away Items: Discussion on what items could be available at the OHRC Booth during the Downtown Thursday Event and other summer events. Commissioners will bring quotes for miscellaneous products to the June OHRC Meeting. Commissioner Bjore will contact Corporate Recognition and Commissioner Hult contact TriM Graphics and Insty Prints. Commissioner Zinsli commented that some items might also be available on Amazon.

OHRC Commissioner shirts and nametags: shirts have been ordered and nametag will be ordered this week for new members Bendorf and Zinsli.

Review of community activities:

Straight Talk – Commissioner Bjore will follow-up on next segment participation.

Volunteer Fair hosted by United Way and the Eagles at the Eagles, April 27th: this was a first-time event and looking to build on for future event.

Community Connect by Community Pathways at Four Seasons, April 29th – set up display and handed out candy, will need new supply of candy for next event.

Sneaker Ball by AGE at Torey's, May 30th 5-8pm Commissioners Hult, Bjore and Seykora plan to attend. Commissioner Bendorf said he might also. This is the second year for this event, there will be recognition of a student, an adult and an organization bringing awareness within the community.

Juneteenth Celebration by AGE at Manthey Park, June 19th 5-8pm- Juneteenth Celebration by AGE at Manthey Park in Owatonna. Last year several OHRC Members attended wearing their OHRC polos on and offered assistance as needed.

Somali Cultural Festival by Hiddo Soor at Central Park, July 3rd Event details pending but keep it on our radar.

Pride in the Park by Rainbowatonna in Central Park. July 11th 1:30-7:30pm

Steele County Free Fair, August 18th-23rd. Will OHRC be a presence in the City's booth?

Downtown Thursday near Central Park, September 3rd 4:00-8:30 pm

- Human Library – Do we want to prepare a new human library or display last year's? Last year many books were rained out and could be available for review this year. Commissioners will contact potential books for discussion during the June meeting. Could promote the books walking around DDT, get a hat or sticker for them to wear. Have flyers printed with the book information.
- Food/candy – last year Hy-Vee donated cookies. Will get a new supply of candy to handout.
- Community Wall – Commissioner Zinsli has several large canvasses and markers that could be used. It was suggested this would also be a good item at table during Pride in the Park event.
- Photo Booth – decided a cute idea but not doable for this event, would want a cutout crated.

Meeting on the Field at Daikin Fields - Saturday, September 5th – Commissioner Bjore to contact Edgar and Mustafe to discuss if there would be interest in holding this event this year.

At 6:20 p.m., City Council Member Don McCann joined the meeting.

Martin Luther King Jr Day Event – Monday, January 18th. Agreed event should continue at the Steele County History Center, Commissioner Bjore will contact the center about the date. Will discuss speaker options during the June OHRC Meeting.

Adjournment

At 6:26 p.m., Commissioner Hult made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Bendorf seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned. The next OHRC Meeting is planned for Tuesday, June 9th at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Coordinator