



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 5:00 PM
2nd Floor Conference Room at City Hall,
540 West Hills Circle
Commissioners: Jessica Bjore, Josiah Hult,
Sam Bendorf, Gretchen Zinsli and Julia Seykora

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Welcome Guests - AGE Representative Present**
4. **Pledge of Allegiance**
5. **Approval of Agenda**
6. **Approval of OHRC Meeting Minutes - July 14, 2026**
 - 6.1. OHRC Meeting Minutes - July 14, 2026
7. **Items of Discussion**
 - 7.1. Current OHRC Open Seats
 - 7.2. Name Tags & Business Cards
 - 7.3. Canvas Tote Bags
 - 7.4. OHRC Card Quotes
 - 7.5. Tent Wall for Human Library
 - 7.6. Brochure Translation
 - 7.7. ICE Updates
 - 7.8. OHRC Facebook Page
8. **Recaps**
 - 8.1. Discussion with Jamie Vanoosbree
 - 8.2. Video Subcommittee Meeting
9. **Future Events**
 - 9.1. August 18-23 - SCFF OHRC at City Booth
 - 9.2. September 3 - Human Library at Downtown Thursday Event
 - 9.3. September 12 - Meeting on the Field
 - 9.4. January 18, 2027 - MLK Day Luncheon
10. **Public Comments**
11. **Commissioner's Comments**
12. **Adjournment**

Owatonna Human Rights Commission
Minutes – July 14, 2026 – DRAFT COPY

The Owatonna Human Rights Commission (OHRC) met on Tuesday, June 9, 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, Zinsli, Hult and Seykora, and Administrative Coordinator Clawson. Commissioner Bendorf was unable to attend. Also present were City Council Members McCann and Boeke and Matthew Garcia.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Bjore welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioner Seykora 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 June 9, 2026 OHRC Meeting Minutes, Commissioner Zinsli made a motion for approval, Commissioner Hult seconded the motion, and all members present voted aye in approval.

Items of Discussion

Election of OHRC Secretary – Chairman Bjore requested nominations for Secretary of the OHRC Commission. Commissioner Hult nominated himself, Commissioner Zinsli seconded the nomination, no other nominations were received. All members present voted aye for Commissioner Hult to serve as the OHRC Secretary.

Open Seats on OHRC – Clawson reported the opening will be online tomorrow to fill two seats currently open.

Canvass Tote Swag – Reviewed options available, Commissioner Seykora made a motion to purchase 100 canvas totes from Corporate Recognition at cost of \$2.15 each. Commissioner Bjore seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

Review OHRC Budget/Expenses – Commissioner Zinsli advised she spent \$40 for stickers and \$40 for candy for the Samali Culture Event. There are a lot of stickers left and approximately 1/3 of the candy. The canvas board used for handprints was donated by Commissioner Zinsli.

OHRC Thank You/Blank Cards – Commissioner Bjore expressed need for OHRC cards, she will get quotes from TriM Graphics and Insty Print.

Translate OHRC Brochures – Administrative Coordinator Clawson will share the Word version of the current OHRC brochure with Commissioners Bjore and Seykora to pursue translation services to Samali and Latino.

2026 Human Library – sheet from last year is missing. Will have to reprint books from last year for display. Commission Bjore to contact Corporate Recognition if they have a similar sheet.

ICE Updates – nothing to report.

2026 General Election Poll Observers – nothing to report.

Voice over Content – OHRC Promotional Video – Commissioner Bjore requested a subcommittee be formed to work on the video's content verbiage. Photographer Aaron Guzeman is collecting material for the video and hopefully the video will be ready to publish during November/December. Serving on the sub-committee will be Commissioners Bjore, Zinsli and Hult. Commissioner Hult suggested the video be prepared in multiple languages, it was suggested to have someone of culture do a translation from the completed video.

Event Recaps:

Women Keeping Hope Alive - Commissioners Bjore, Seykora and Zinsli attended this event to present what the OHRC Commission does. The organization was prepared with questions such as why OHRC is needed and what do you do which lead to a good informative session.

Juneteenth Celebration – Most of the OHRC members attended. Good food, good OHRC presence made. Recommend no table at this event, commissioners were mingling and volunteered to help with various tasks.

Steward of Children Training and Certification – Matthew Garcia attended this and certified. The session went over ways to be an advocate for children. The session was at the Teen Center and very interesting.

Somali Cultural Festival – Commissioners Bendorf and Bjore were one of five tables present. It was a good event with a nice turnout. Only a handful of adults stopped, mostly children. Next year will want to provide swag leaning towards kids, suggested small soccer balls with the date of the Meeting on the Field.

Pride in the Park – Event was well attended and went smoothly. Most OHRC members attended promoting OHRC and Rainbowatonna activities.

Future Events:

August 18-23, 2026 - Steele County Free Fair at the city booth. Commissioner Bjore responded to the city's e-mail asking if interested and waiting for time assignment.

September 3 – Downtown Thursday Event. Will use 2026 Human Library, might ask some of the books to be present, it rained last year and several were not available. Commissioner Seykora has table and tent in her garage. Commissioner Seykora will ask for cookie donation. Will plan to post canvasses for engaging activity, Commissioner Zinsli has some big canvasses available.

September 12th - Meeting on the Field. Commissioner Bjore commented that the Park on the Go cart is not available. Commissioners Seykora and Bjore and Matthew contact Edgar

and Mustafe to contact participants. Commissioner Seykora will order T-shirts for players.

January 18, 2027 - 2027 MLK Jr. Day Event: Commissioner Bjore has secured the History Center for this event at noon. AGE has expressed interest in partnering for this event, OHRC will remain the primary lead for the event. Commissioner Bjore will meet with Jamie Vanoosbree and invite her to attend the next OHRC Meeting.

Additional event at the History Center – the city is allowed three events rent free each year. OHRC uses one for the MLK Jr Day Event. Commissioner Seykora suggested using this for Owatonna Community Leadership Academy's Cultural/Diversity Day; currently that session is offered at the library at a cost.

Council Member McCann suggested a handprint canvas be made at each event creating a collage for use in the OHRC video. Commissioner Seykora suggested making short videos during the events that could be played on Facebook to promote these activities. Administrative Coordinator Clawson will inquire about establishing a Facebook account for the OHRC.

Council Member Boeke thanked the OHRC members for every thing they do for the commission and the city.

Commissioner Bjore presented a memorial gift to Administrative Coordinator Clawson, her husband Kevin passed away the 10th of June.

Adjournment

At 6:36 p.m., Commissioner Seykora made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Hult seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned. Commissioner Bjore thanked everyone for attending, the next OHRC Meeting is planned for Tuesday, August 12th at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Coordinator