



**City of Albert Lea
Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes**

*April 09, 2026 Meeting – 6:00pm
City Council Chambers - 221 E. Clark Street*

Members Present: Aruna Evenson, Angie Hanson, Irasema Hernandez, Jeremy Corey-Gruenes, and Ex-Officio Keith Van Beek

Members Absent: Peggy Olson, Cesar Victorino and Charles Alkula, Student Representative Rice Boettcher

Staff in Attendance: City Manager Ian Rigg and Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk Karla Tukua

Staff Absent: Human Resources Director Mike Zelenak

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Aruna Evenson

Adopt Agenda:

Hernandez made motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting and Corey-Gruenes seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of said motion, 4-0. Motion declared passed.

Approval of Minutes:

Corey-Gruenes made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2026 meeting and Evenson seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of said motion, 4-0. Motion declared passed.

New Business:

- A. Governor Walz Executive Order – Establishing a Council to document stories regarding recent Ice incursion – Corey-Gruenes

Corey-Gruenes had a resident approached him about Governor Walz's Executive Order regarding establishing a council to document the impacts of Operation Metro Surge. Corey-Gruenes explained that Governor Walz wants to record the stories of Minnesota residents in regards to any harm they endured, as well as stories of communities coming together to support their fellow citizens. Corey-Gruenes said he'd like commission approval to reach out to the Governor's Council to express interest in collecting these stories. There was continued discussion regarding the details of the Executive Order and the effects that metro surge had in rural communities. The members present agreed to have Corey Gruenes reach out to the Governor's Council to find out next steps to be a part of this program. He will report back his findings at the next HRC meeting.

B. Budgeting for Equity – Strategic Plan – City Manager

Rigg explained how he'd like members of the HRC to help with the budgeting process as it relates to supporting marginalized residents. His perspective is from the aspect of whether the people paying for programs are benefiting from the programs. Rigg gave different examples on how having HRC members involved can help ensure the budgeting process is fair and equitable.

-Rigg asked for commission members to review the articles he had previously sent and come with ideas on how to shape the process.

Old Business:

A. Follow-up on Wind Down Wednesday Planning – Aruna and Angie

- Wind Down Wednesday hours are now 3p-8p, planning wise would still like to have a dunk tank. Any fundraiser option would need to have the person from the organization there to accept money raised.
- Rigg will take care of cost of dunk tank
- Handouts given – City of Albert Lea swag, pamphlets, crochet trinket/animals.
- Refrigerator magnet with Human Rights Commission logo and QR code to access website. Hanson will follow up on magnet idea and reach out to Erin Haag at United way for dunk tank.

Rest of tonight's agenda items were tabled until the next meeting.

B. Law enforcement Transparency Recommendation meeting

C. Resource Directory Link

Board Member Items:

Staff Communications:

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Hernandez and seconded by Corey Gruenes at 6:50 pm. On a voice vote, all members present voted in favor of said motion, 4-0. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 6:00pm.

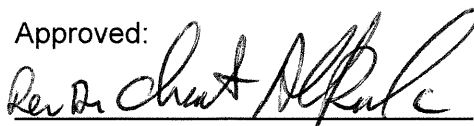
Respectfully submitted,



Karla Tukua

Human Rights Commission Secretary

Approved:



Charles Alkula

Human Rights Commission Chair