

**Red Wing Human Rights Commission
Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
February 26, 2026**

Members Present: Chair Beth Breeden; Commissioners Gabrielle Magill, Bobbie Christen, Addyson Carpenter

Members Absent: Joe Bigalke (Excused)

Others Present: Cara Kvanbek, Staff Liaison; Becky Norton, Council Liaison

1. Roll Call

Chair Beth Breeden called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Workshop Items

A. *Discuss HRC Sub-Committees and Choose the Next Project(s).*

Chair Breeden asked if anyone had questions or thoughts about what they'd like to do.

Commissioner Christen asked how the Sub-Committees have been split in the past. Chair Breeden provided a brief overview of each Sub-Committee, along with Commission commitments.

Staff Liaison Kvanbek discussed what Human Rights Resource Connection is.

Chair Breeden further provided overviews of Sub-Committees along with Commission commitments.

Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated that with a limited number of Commissioners, the goal is to pick something and do it well. She noted the Amos Owens award is a set commitment.

Commissioner Christen stated that her husband is on the Board of the Alluvial Military Museum and mentioned holding a Holocaust Remembrance Day in collaboration with the museum. Chair Beth Breeden noted a Holocaust Remembrance Event that the City held approximately five years ago, which was well-received by the community.

Commissioner Carpenter discussed her disability partnerships and upcoming changes.

Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated that if Commissioner Carpenter has anyone who would like to speak to the group, the Council can set aside time during a regular meeting. Chair Breeden commented that Commissioner Carpenter could also create a

presentation.

Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated that this is a working list and the Commission can add things as they see fit.

Commissioner Christen commented that the City has a lot of programs already in place for Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Chair Breeden discussed what the City typically does in honor of Veterans Day. Commissioner Christen stated she was unfortunately not going to be able to participate in Memorial Day as she'd be out of town, but she would still be a good resource during planning and preparation.

Council Liaison Norton stated that the Council voted to remove Council Liaisons from Boards and Commissions that do not have decision-making authority.

Chair Breeden noted that she watched the Council Meeting and was under the assumption that Council Liaison Norton would remain a Liaison as the Commission votes. Council Liaison Norton stated that the only two Commissions that will continue to have Liaisons are the HRA and Port Authority.

Council Liaison Norton commented that she doesn't know what her role will look like going forward. Chair Breeden noted that the Council is still able to advise, and there will still be communication. Council Liaison Norton affirmed this statement.

Council Liaison Norton stated that Chair Breeden or Staff Liaison Kvanbek are welcome to invite her or reach out if Council input is desired.

Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated that Council Liaison Norton's guidance has been invaluable to her.

Council Liaison Norton asked if they'd like her to stay for the rest of the Workshop. Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated the Commission will mostly be discussing their next project.

Council Liaison Norton presented the idea of having a community conversation. She stated that hiring a consultant may be a good approach. She noted that she is not giving direction, but an idea to contemplate. She also noted that the City Engagement Specialist is looking into the communication Policy regarding recognizing and honoring special days and months throughout the year.

Council Liaison Norton stated she would continue to do anything she could to support the Commission before leaving.

Commissioner Christen asked how many Commission positions are open. Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated there are currently two open positions.

Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated that the Commission could have the Human Rights Resource Connection flyer put into the utility bill, as it is relatively low-cost.

Commissioner Christen voiced support for that idea.

Chair Breeden discussed how the Commission could divide Sub-Committees and projects.

Commissioner Christen noted she can head Holocaust Remembrance Day. Commissioner Carpenter stated she would help.

Staff Liaison Kvanbek noted they could partner with the Library or City Hall to show the display.

Chair Breeden stated she would like to work on MLK Day. She also discussed human trafficking awareness month in January and noted past organizations that have done presentations for the City.

Staff Liaison Kvanbek noted that January is a voting meeting and the Commission can bring in someone to do a presentation, but communication with the organization will need to happen ahead of time.

Chair Breeden asked if there was anything any Commissioners wanted to bring forward for January. Commissioners stated no.

Chair Breeden stated the next month for discussion is February and noted the suggestions of Black History Month and Presidents' Day.

Commissioner Christen asked what is typically done for Black History Month in the community. Chair Breeden noted that school involvement, speaking engagements, MLK breakfast, and a library event have all occurred in the past.

Staff Liaison Kvanbek noted that in the past, there have been teachers who were on the HRC, which made some of that coordinating more feasible.

Commissioner Magill noted that Trey Moore is the head of the Black Student Union (BSU).

Chair Breeden stated that last year, the Commission partnered with the History Center, and BSU students put on a large event.

Commissioner Christen noted that when she was in high school, the announcements would spotlight little-known pieces of black history and stated that the HRC could back something similar.

Chair Breeden discussed other Black History Month events and projects the HRC has done. She noted she would like to be on the Black History Month Sub-Committee and asked if any other Commissioners would like to be a part of it.

Commissioner Christen asked if this was for next year. Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated

that it would be necessary. Commissioner Christen noted that she would assist.

Chair Breeden asked Commissioner Magill if any Sub-Committees stood out to her. Commissioner Magill stated no and that she was tired.

Chair Breeden asked if anyone wanted to do Presidents' Day. Chair Breeden noted that March is Women's History Month and discussed what was done in the past.

Chair Breeden asked if anyone wanted to do Development Ability Awareness Month. Commissioner Carpenter stated she would do that and discussed some autism centers in Red Wing she would like to connect with.

Chair Breeden stated Commissioner Bigalke had an interest in that Sub-Committee and asked for an email to be sent to ask if that is still the case. Staff Liaison Kvanbek noted she could send him an email.

Chair Breeden discussed April opportunities as Asian American Heritage, Native Hawaiian Heritage, and Autism Awareness. She asked if Commissioner Carpenter would be interested in merging Autism Awareness with Developmental Disability Awareness Month. Commissioner Carpenter stated she will do them separately.

Chair Breeden asked about Memorial Day in May, noting Commissioner Christen's prior interest. Commissioner Christen stated she will not be around on Memorial Day.

Commissioner Magill asked if these are commitments or if Commissioners can bring them back up later, closer to the time period. Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated they need to vote on it as a group. Chair Breeden stated they also need to be mindful that they vote on money and, therefore, need to plan.

Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated the HRC can table at PRIDE if they'd like to.

Chair Breeden asked if any Commissioners want to run the table at PRIDE. Commissioner Christen stated she can't make that commitment at this time.

Commissioner Christen asked if an organizer could come and talk to the Commission. Chair Breeden asked if they could invite Ms. Randall to speak. Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated she could invite her to the May meeting. Chair Breeden noted they should invite her earlier in case the Commission would like to donate money.

Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated that having a table at the event is a better approach and noted the rules surrounding donations.

Commissioner Christen voiced her concern regarding donating money to different organizations.

Commissioner Christen asked about tabling for Juneteenth. Chair Breeden noted the Commission's history with Juneteenth.

Commissioner Christen asked for guidance on Juneteenth if she were to take it on. Chair Breeden stated she would need to communicate with BSU, as they have headed the event the last two years. Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated that first, she needs to communicate with the Staff and will then reach out to Commissioner Christen.

Chair Breeden discussed Independence Day and fireworks.

Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated the Commission needs to start preparing for the Amos Owens Award in June.

Chair Breeden discussed July and August events.

Commissioner Magill noted the Police Department's involvement in National Night Out.

Commissioner Carpenter stated she can do Suicide Prevention Awareness in September.

Chair Breeden would like to see the promotion of Black businesses. Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated Chair Breeden could reach out to Courtney regarding that.

Chair Breeden discussed the Hispanic Festival. Commissioner Christen noted that it is pretty established, but the Commission could reach out regarding a table.

Commissioner Magill asked about providing them time to speak at a meeting to get the event information out. Chair Breeden discussed their coming to speak in the past and how HRC has contributed to the festival.

Commissioner Carpenter stated again that she can do Suicide Prevention Awareness in September. Commissioner Magill stated that she can help. Chair Breeden stated she would also like to assist.

Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated that, in regard to the project, it would be beneficial to update the website information.

Chair Breeden discussed the Amos Owens Award.

Chair Breeden discussed the October events.

Commissioner Christen asked what Employee Awareness is. Staff Liaison Kvanbek noted it is important to understand your rights as an employee.

Chair Breeden discussed Mental Illness Awareness, Domestic Violence Awareness,

and Dyslexia Awareness.

Commissioner Christen asked what the City has done in the past for Dyslexia Awareness. Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated that this is new.

Commissioner Christen noted the Commissioner could collaborate with the school district regarding Bullying Awareness.

Staff Liaison Kvanbek highlighted that the Commission can also just bring it up in regular meetings for awareness.

Chair Breeden discussed November events.

Staff Liaison Kvanbek discussed having a community awareness section in the agenda.

Chair Breeden discussed December events.

Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated that she will send out a link to a video about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

B. Distribute New Human Rights Resource Connection Flyer.

C. Human Rights Resource Connection Update for 2025 and 2026.

Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated that one call was received last year. She distributed the updated flyer and asked Commissioners to share it within the community.

Chair Breeden asked for Staff Liaison Kvanbek to share the five-year plan with the new Commissioners. Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated she would email it to them.

Commissioner Christen asked about the Human Rights Resource Center. Staff Liaison Kvanbek stated the Human Rights Resource Center is really all of them and discussed putting it in the utility bill.

Commissioner Christen asked if Native American Heritage Month is wrapped into the Ames Owens Award. Chair Breeden stated it was this past year.

Chair Breeden highlighted that the interest expressed this evening does not lock Commissioners into place, and she expects new events to come forward.

Commissioner Christen expressed confusion related to commitments to planning events. Chair Breeden clarified that the meeting is to gauge interest, but understands that plans sometimes change or new event ideas arise.

3. Adjournment

Chair Beth Breeden adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.
