

**Minutes of the Human Rights Commission Meeting**

**Held February 19, 2026, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room – City Hall**

**5:00 p.m.**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Attendance</u>	<u>End of Current Term of Office</u>
<b><i>Members Present:</i></b>		
Dana Stickley	(22 – 3)	9/18/26
Brandon Johnson	(5 – 0)	10/8/28
Zach Ellis	(5 – 0)	10/8/26
Erik McGuire	(22 – 3)	10/8/26
<b><i>Members Absent:</i></b> Petronilla Sylvester		
	(19 – 3)	1/9/26
<b><i>Staff Present:</i></b> Jason Soper, City Attorney		

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**Agenda Item #1: Welcome and Call to Order.**

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Johnson at 5:05 p.m.

**Agenda Item #2: Roll Call/Attendance.**

All members present except Petronilla Sylvester (Noted: Her term expired 1/9/26) There is a quorum.

**Agenda Item #3 and #4: Approval of Meeting Agenda and January Meeting Minutes.**

A motion was made to approve the agenda as published by Ellis. Seconded by McGuire. Passed unanimously.

A motion was made to accept the January minutes by Stickley. Seconded by McGuire. Passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item #5: Old Business.**

The St. Joseph Human Rights Commission First Quarter 2026 Newsletter was discussed. It was distributed in the weeks following the last Human Right Commission (HRC) meeting, and was drafted by McGuire. The entire HRC thanked McGuire for his efforts and applauded the Newsletter. McGuire stated he emailed it to current and potential HRC partners and posted it on the HRC Facebook page. He asked the Board for more emails to add to the list.

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CITY CLERK

## **Agenda Item #6: Reports**

### **a. Commissioner Reports.**

**Ellis:** Stated that on April 2<sup>nd</sup> there would be a “What were you wearing?” program. On April 7<sup>th</sup> a panel on sexual assault awareness would be held at the Fulkerson Center at MWSU. April 24<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> will feature the university lacrosse and softball “teal games”. He plans to be present.

**McGuire:** March is Developmental Disability Month. There is a possibility of holding the HRC March meeting (March 19, 2026) in conjunction with a meeting of the brain injury group at Life Unlimited at 4420 S. 40<sup>th</sup>.

**Stickley:** Reported working on a potential May Listening Session. She was contacting St. Joe Therapists, St. Joseph Museums and the Samaritan Center to discuss subject matter and inclusion.

**Johnson:** Started a short discussion concerning HRC issues and the national scene. How do HRC members handle questions from citizens? The issues of ICE and Jeffrey Epstein were discussed. McGuire reported recently attending a meeting where he explained what the HRC does.

## **Agenda Item #7: New Business**

### **a. Review Newsletter and Provide Feedback**

Addressed under old business.

### **b. Discuss Dividing Tasks for Upcoming Events and Meetings**

Juneteenth was discussed, as was Pride at the Civic Center June 27 – 29. It was reported that a table for Pride cost \$25. Soper stated he would look into the cost.

The consensus was that these will take some planning, and minus Listening Sessions, the Board needed to devote at least the April meeting to this.

Ellis offered to have a photographer attend any upcoming listening sessions.

Johnson reminded the Board that Sylvester’s seat is now open and we need a replacement. He asked the Board to “put it out there” to see if any of their contacts were interested.

## **Agenda Item #8: Open Floor for Public Comment.**

No members of the public were in attendance.

**Agenda Item #9: Adjourn.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m. upon a motion to adjourn made by Stickley and seconded by Ellis.

The next Human Rights Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 5pm. It will either be held at City Hall in the first-floor conference room, or it will be held as a Listening Session at Life Unlimited, 4420 S. 40<sup>th</sup>. The forthcoming Meeting Notice and Agenda will state the location.

**FOLLOW-UP:** It has been determined that the next HRC meeting will be the Listening Session at Life Unlimited, 4420 S. 40<sup>th</sup>, St. Joseph, Missouri, with the subject of “Developmental Disabilities”. Panelists will include Life Unlimited, Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation, the Brain Injury Group, and the HRC. This Session will occur on March 19, 2026, from 5pm to 6pm. One (1) CEU credit has been approved for social work professionals.

Minutes respectfully submitted.

Jason Soper  
City Attorney