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Melrose Human Rights Commission

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[Human Rights Commission Official Website](#)

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APRIL 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Lizzy Barr (Chair), Randall Carter, Jay Stapp, Brian Kochanowski, Laurie Chomko, Josh Shortlidge, Laura Bergsten

Members Absent: Linda Thompson

Members of Public: None

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chair Barr at 6:04 pm with a quorum of 7 Commissioners present.

READING OF THE MINUTES

Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Chairperson Barr entertained a motion to accept minutes of previous meeting
 - Commissioner Carter moves; seconded by Commissioner Kochanowski
 - Motion passes unanimously

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- The Chair noted that 0 member(s) of the public were present. The Chair tabled a motion to open public comment.
- Public Comment
- Chairperson's Report
 - Staffing updates
 - Chair Lizzy Barr is stepping down at the end of April
 - Commission needs to vote in Chair and Vice-Chair positions
 - Website updates
 - Membership changes
 - Intake form & process
 - Add "Resources & Information" section to Homepage
 - Send one single email to Tom to make updates
- Treasurer's Report
 - Donation account balance: \$2,425.01
 - Outstanding payments/approved obligations:
 - MLK Day of Service (up to \$280): check issued
 - \$262 was requested; \$214 was disbursed
 - **TO DO:** Josh and Jay to connect re: amount discrepancy
 - Roosevelt World Culture Day (up to \$280)
 - Chair Barr to submit receipt once billing cycle closes
 - **TO DO:** Chair Barr to submit CC receipt by end of month
 - City Council Review to Provide \$2000 Operating Budget for MHRC

- ● Budget Meeting scheduled for 5/14
- ● MHRC needs to prepare written and oral presentation
- ● Chair (or representative) must be present before City Council
- TO DO: Chair Barr to email Tanji re: ethics training for Commissioners Chomko and Shortlidge
- TO DO: Chair Barr to make contact list of email addresses for frequent Chair contacts
- Regular Business
 - Vote
 - Chair—Commissioner Shortlidge expressed interest in becoming Chair
 - Vice-Chair—Commissioner Kochanowski expressed interest in becoming Vice-Chair
 - Chair Vote
 - Commissioner Carter moves to introduce a vote to nominate Commissioner Shortlidge as Chair; seconded by Commissioner Kochanowski
 - motion passes unanimously
 - Vice-Chair vote
 - Commissioner Shortlidge moves to introduce a vote to nominate Commissioner Kochanowski as Vice-Chair; seconded by Commissioner Carter
 - motion passes unanimously
 - Positions will be effective May 1, 2026
 - Next steps
 - ● Prepare new Chair for transition
 - ● Communicate updates to Mayor's Office
 - ● Determine new meeting date/time (if necessary)
 - ● Establish new Zoom/meeting link
 - NB: Commission previously used Google Meet, in absence of Zoom pro acct
 - Nonprofit Zoom acct option?
 - ● Confirm access to email, social media, and other accounts
 - TO DO: New chair to determine next meeting date
 -
- Updates
- New Business
- Other and/or Unfinished Business
 -
- Adjournment
 - Commissioner Barr entertained a motion to adjourn
 - Commissioner Carter moves; Commissioner Kochanowski seconds
 - motion passes without objection
 - Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm