



MELROSE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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By City Clerks Office at 9:42 am, Sep 04, 2025

February 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Bonnie Clapp (Chair), Linda Apple, Randall Carter, Lizzy Barr, Jay Stapp, Kelsey Lima

Members Absent: Rev. Dr. Susanne Intriligator (Clergy Liaison), Lizbeth DeSelm (City Council Liaison), Manjula Karamcheti (City Council Liaison), Joe Phillips, Jake Rogers

Members of Public: Anthony Vivo, with the Melrose Messenger

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chair Bonnie Clapp at 7:09 pm with a quorum of 6 Commissioners present.

READING OF THE MINUTES

Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Chairperson Clapp entertained a motion to accept the motions for the prior two meetings.
 - Commissioner Carter motions; seconded by Commissioner Stapp. Motion passes without objection
- Minutes to be sent to city clerk by Commissioner Carter

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- The Chair noted that 2 member(s) of the public were present. The Chair entertained a motion to open public comment
 - Present: Josh Shortledge; Brian Johnson
 - Brian Johnson
 - Involved with MLK Day of Service
 - Request for additional help from HRC to get word out to community
 - Meeting planned for 9/8/25, 7pm at UU Church—put on calendar; get word out

REGULAR BUSINESS

Chairperson's Administrative Report:

- Commissioner Carter began taking Meeting Minutes for the remainder of the meeting.
- Vacancies & Term expirations
 - terms expire at end of February
 - Commissioners Carter, Stapp seeking re-appointment
 - Commissioners Clapp, Apple not seeking re-appointment
 - Will need replacement chair, treasurer

- Commissioner Clapp met with Mayor's Office re: new recruits
 - Currently one community member has expressed interest
- Commissioner Rogers to resign
- As of 3/1/25, HRC will have 4 vacancies
- Conflict of Interest training
 - Must be completed every two year
- Annual Election
 - To be held at March 2025 meeting
- **Treasurer's Report**
 - To date, no money spent this year
 - Commissioner Apple proposes to confer with Mayor's Office re: allocating funds to organizations who put on community events in Melrose
- **MHRC Restructuring**
 - Discussion of role of HRC going forward
 - Prioritize provision of resources and support to community
 - How to move beyond the recent overemphasis on event planning, beyond scope of HRC's capabilities and budget
 - Discussion of draft of officers and role description
 - Goal: improve recruitment by better communicating opportunities to prospective commissioners
 - Going forward, more clearly defined positions will ensure division of responsibilities
 - E.g., in past, posting to social media has not been assigned to any one commissioner
 - Prioritizing community partnerships
 - Commissioner Barr mentions text of authoring ordinance—specifically names that one member shall be an attorney
 - Possibility to offer continuing legal education credits to attract attorneys?
 - How to capitalize on potential rise in public desire to do public service
 - City Solicitor is willing to meet with Commissioners for training re: public meeting laws, etc.
 - Discussion of ideas for how best to utilize HRC budget
 - Trainings for community
 - trainings for commissioners
 - stipends
 - How to support currently marginalized/vulnerable communities
 - Commissioner Stapp expressed willingness to become treasurer
 - Commissioner Barr expressed interest in treasurer, communications positions
 - Commissioner Clapp to meet with Mayor's office re: vacancies, restructuring, allocations, etc.
- **Adjournment:**
 - Vice Chair Lima entertains a motion to adjourn at 8:27 pm, made by Commissioner Carter, seconded by Commissioner Apple. Passed without objections

- Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm