



Human Relations Commission

September 8, 2026 4:00 PM

MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/224236915097568?p=G5k6eLVC6XyELWN7cl>

Meeting ID: 224 236 915 097 568

Passcode: vZ2zU7TC

Dial in by phone

+1 660-631-8082

Phone conference ID: 960 763 386#

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 14, 2026 & August 11, 2026

OLD BUSINESS

1. Skateboard Competition Event Planning Discussion

NEW BUSINESS

1. Future Events Discussion
2. Future Schedule Discussion

ADJOURNMENT



Independence Human Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes from July 14, 2026

Chair Helen Hurley called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Chair Helen Hurley welcomed new member Sarah Lawson to the Commission. Members present were Chair Helen Hurley, Vice Chair Lupe Moe, Charline Gray, Sarah Lawson, Mindy Meadows, & Virginia Hudson. Staff liaison John Mayfield was also present.

Virginia Hudson moved to approve the meeting minutes of the special called May 18, 2026, meeting. Charline Gray seconded the motion. Motion approved by a vote of 6-0.

Members discussed the ICON Award presentation. Helen Hurley discussed the issue of the sound system not being at a preferred standard. Steps have been taken to address this issue for next year. Members also discussed ways to bring more attention to the ICON Award so that more nominations are submitted in the future.

Lupe Moe reported that the Island Fest event went very well. Sarah Lawson commented that she learned about this event from several of her business customers.

Members discussed the upcoming Skateboard Competition on September 26th. Parks & Rec staff are working with Hy-Vee on obtaining a donation. Chair Helen Hurley announced an in-person meeting on August 11th at 4:00 p.m. to plan further for this event. Sarah Lawson stated that she would be willing to contact small business owners for donations for the event.

Members discussed how the World Cup impacted our community. Members noted that the Soccer Saturdays held on Independence Square went well. John Mayfield noted that there is a strong possibility that the Women's 2031 World Cup may have matches in Kansas City. An announcement by the FIFA Congress will be made in late November 2026.

Helen Hurley noted that the Juneteenth event went well. More vendors attended than in previous years. Meredith Rose was the keynote speaker, and her speech was well received. Members noted some negative Facebook posts regarding the event. Members agreed that this worldview is one reason why it is important to have a Human Relations Commission to educate the public about our history.

Members discussed ways to better promote HRC events. Ideas included digital flyers, and incentives to attend future events.

Members discussed the need for more public transportation in Independence and the Kansas City region. Mindy Meadows stated that KCATA was conducting public comment sessions and encouraged members to participate.

Members discussed the idea of moving forward with a nondiscrimination ordinance. Helen Hurley will email John Mayfield with the latest version. Mindy Meadows discussed with the group the possibility of joining one of the city liter clean up days to promote the group and to provide community service.

Virginia Hudson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mindy Meadows seconded the motion. Motion approved 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Minutes submitted by John Mayfield

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Independence Human Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes from August 11, 2026

Chair Helen Hurley welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Members present were Chair Helen Hurley, Vice Chair Lupe Moe, Charline Gray, Sarah Lawson, Mindy Meadows, Virginia Hudson and Nina Woodson-Falls. City Councilmember At-Large Jackie Dorman and City Staff Erika Geering, Candi Laster, John Mayfield and Jeff Umbreit were also present.

Nina Woodson-Falls thanked everyone for attendance and for their assistance with the Skateboard Competition. The Skateboard Competition will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Hill Park. The group hopes that Mayor King will show off his skateboard moves at the event.

Jeff Umbreit stated that Parks and Recreation will handle the following needs: Porta Potty, Tents, Chairs, Tables and Trophies. Charline Gray volunteered to provide \$600 in Visa Gift Cards.

Councilmember Dorman and John Mayfield will provide \$120 in various gift cards for skaters. Candi Laster will provide the promotional flyer and social media posts promoting the event as well as photos and videos from the event.

Erika Geering is working with Hy-Vee on hotdogs donation and will double check with Hy-Vee about providing bottled water & condiments. John Mayfield will be the back up for these items. Erika will pick up the hotdogs and any items from Hy-Vee the morning of the event.

Sarah Lawson will work on obtaining skateboards. Councilmember Dorman will reach out to Independence Center to inquire about other donations for skateboarders.

The group went over the Health Department guidelines. A health inspection will be required 30 minutes prior to the event to obtain a temporary health permit. HRC members are asked to arrive at Hill Park at 8:30 a.m.

Charline Gray moved to adjourn the meeting. Mindy Meaows seconded the motion.
Motion passed 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by John Mayfield

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