

Town of West Hartford – Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Sept. 2, 2026

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:52 PM.

Attendance

Present: Andrew Rasmussen-Tuller, Jessica Serrano, Sue A. Collins, Eric Schoenberg, Greg Collins, Eva Jacobson, Pramod Pradhan (Staff Liaison).

Absent: Michael Bloom, Robin Mark Santiago, Carol Blanks

Approval of Special Meeting

Minutes- July 1, 2026

Motion to approve meeting minutes

Motioned by – Commissioner G.

Collins

Second – Commissioner Schoenberg

Approved

Public Comments-

No one from the public signed for public comment.

Unfinished Business

1. **Hate Crimes & Hate Speech –**

Commissioner Jacobson provided additional information about the Hate Crimes & Hate Speech Group and distributed a revised hate crimes flyer for review and approval.

Commissioner G. Collins expressed concerns about free speech, particularly regarding the reporting of hate incidents to law enforcement.

Motion: Approve new hate crimes flyer

Motioned by Commissioner Jacobson
Result – Approved
Unanimous

New Business:

Commissioner Rasmussen-Tuller:

Chair's Welcome / Welcome Back

- Take time to reflect on mission of HRC
- Important to respect different perspectives

Commission Meeting Etiquette & Procedures

- One person should speak at a time
- Discussion should go through co-chairs
- Disagree respectfully

Commission Facebook Page / Social Media

- Make HRC social media presence more active
- Informational posts (meeting dates, meeting agenda, etc.) can be posted without HRC approval
- Additional posts should receive HRC approval

Motion to allow Executive Board members (co-chairs and secretary) access to social media accounts

Motioned by Commissioner Jacobson

Seconded by Commissioner Schoenberg

Result – Approved

Unanimous

Commission Priorities for 2026–2027

- Idea for subcommittee to clarify HRC priorities

Commission Subcommittee Structure

- 4 broad areas for framework:
 - a. Community engagement
 - b. HRC education and community dialogue
 - c. Civil rights, equity
 - d. Partnership, advocacy, government collaboration

Motion to create temporary subcommittee to address HRC priorities for 2026-27

Motioned by Commission Rasmussen-Tuller

Seconded by Commissioner Schoenberg
Result – Approved
Unanimous

Motion to table subcommittee (for 2026-27 HRC priorities) appointments until October 2026 meeting

Motioned by Commission Rasmussen-Tuller
Seconded by Commissioner G. Collins
Result – Approved
Unanimous

Idea for Free Speech Initiative

Commissioner G. Collins proposed the idea for HRC to hold community forums on controversial political and social topics relevant to the WeHa community.

- To serve as a model for vigorous yet respectful discourse

Commissioner Schoenberg: free speech is crucial especially in WeHa because of political imbalance

Motion to form HRC subcommittee to investigate public forums on community topics that demonstrate respectful discourse

Motioned by Commission S. Collins
Seconded by Commissioner Schoenberg
Result – Approved
Unanimous

Next Regular Meeting Date:

October 7, 2026

Proposed Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

1. Update on Hate Crimes & Hate Speech Group Subcommittee publicity and outreach
2. Subcommittee on priority items for 2026-27; appointments to subcommittee
3. Subcommittee for free speech initiative

No announcements

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.