

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY GROUP OF THE CITY OF
HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS**

MEETING DATE: October 9, 2025

MEETING LOCATION: Highland Park Police Department
1677 Old Deerfield Road, Highland Park, IL

CALL TO ORDER: At 5:05 PM, Chair Tiersky called the Human Relations Advisory Group (HRAG) regular meeting to order and Staff Liaison Earle called the roll.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Chair Tiersky, Vice-Chair Canchester, Advisors Buzard, Fishman, Gottesman, Jasenof, Lynch, Flores-Weisskopf

Members Absent: Advisors Lugar, Harris

Also Present: Council Liaison Lidawer, Park District Liaison Pierce, Student Liaison Rosenblatt, Staff Liaison Earle, Alternate Staff Liaison Ford, Assistant City Manager Jason

Chair Tiersky declared a quorum was present.

CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

- (a) Approval of the May 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
Member Buzzard moved to adopt the minutes. Vice-Chair Canchester seconded the motion. Voice vote, unanimous. Chair Tiersky declared the motion passed.
- (b) Approval of the August 7, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
Member Gottesman moved to adopt the minutes. Vice-Chair Canchester seconded the motion. Voice vote, unanimous. Chair Tiersky declared the motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

OLD BUSINESS

- (a) 2026 MLK Event Discussion (WP1)

Chair Tiersky invited Staff Liaison Earle to give an update on the service project committee. Earle reported that the application was updated and sent out to 2025 and 2025 participants with 8 responses at the time of the meeting. The cutoff date for response is November 15.

Vice-Chair Canchester and Advisor Gottesman gave an update from the Entertainment Committee. They reported that they would not be moving forward with the previous dance group and recommend a dance group named "The Roots of Black Dance in America" who have a total fee of \$740 due to an MLK Day upcharge. The advisors discussed the options of expanding the performance time from 20 to 30 minutes, having performances on the side throughout the event, as well as the impact on the focus on service projects versus the draw of entertainment. The Entertainment Committee will get more information on the time restraints and opportunities of the dance group after reviewing the schedule of the past year's event.

Staff Liaison Earle set the next meeting for December 11 where the group is to finalize the entertainment and schedule for the event. Earle confirmed the marketing plan is underway with new digital signs. Vice-Chair Canchester volunteered to confirm service project details with respondents. Glencoe GCIC will not partner on event for this year but is open for future years. The group expresses desire to include them meaningfully in the future and to start planning sooner.

(b) 2026 HP Awards Discussion (WP2)

Chair Tiersky stated that award nominations open November 1 and close December 31, with Character Counts nominations through mid-February. Staff Liaison Earle reports she is working with the Marketing Coordinator for the event and plans to reach out to previous participants again. Earle presented a number of ceremony dates and is waiting to confirm availability with the venue.

(c) CommUNITY Conversations Update (WP1)

Advisor Fishman provided an update that if the project is planned to be rolled out after MLK Day and expressed a desire to have conversations in a variety of locations with different groups.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) 2026 Meeting Resolution Approval

Member Lynch moved to adopt the resolution. Advisor Fishman seconded the motion. Voice vote, unanimous. Chair Tiersky declared the motion passed.

(b) 2026 Work Plan Discussion & Approval

Council Liaison Lidawer and Assistant City Manager Jason gave background and an overview of an addition to the work plan to review the City statement against hate and definition of anti-Semitism to see if there are additional groups and definitions that should be created.

The group will be obtaining new representatives from the Park District and Moraine Township.

Member Fishman moved to adopt the Work Plan. Advisor Gottesman seconded the motion. Voice vote, unanimous. Chair Tiersky declared the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

(a) City Staff Update

Assistant City Manager Jason reported that the City will be participating in America 250 and notes interest in incorporating this into other 2026 events.

(b) Chairman Update

Chair Tiersky did not have an updates.

(c) Advisor Comments

Members

Gottesman – Stated that HRAG is not the group to make an ICE statement for the City but HRAG could support the messaging as it becomes a large concern in the community.

Flores-Weisskopf - Noted the idea of including Latino populations in statement of hate review.

Community Liaisons

Student Liaison Rosenblatt- Rosenblatt participates in Tech Tutors, who help seniors with technology. They are reaching out to senior centers and are looking for meeting places considering the school hours. Suggested location included Sunset Foods, library, faith centers, yacht club, and senior homes. Rosenblatt also reports that the Park District ceramics studio is being cut due to lack of funding/ space. Park District is still looking for solutions but they request for ideas for alternative spaces.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tiersky entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Advisor Jasenof and seconded by Advisor Fishman. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the advisors present. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Parker Ford
Administrative Program Specialist