



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

5:30 PM Commerce City Civic Center - Room 3109, 7887 E 60th Ave

1. Call To Order/Roll Call

A regular meeting of the DEI Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Roman on September 24, 2025 at 5:48 PM.

A motion was made by Member Stranahan, seconded by Member Curry, to excuse Chair LongSoldier and Member Gilliam from the meeting. VOTE: 7- Aye, 2- Excused (Chair LongSoldier and Member Gilliam).

Present 7 - Commissioner Bianca Gonzalez-De La Rosa, Commissioner America Carbajal, Commissioner Deana Hall, Joanne Stranahan, Commissioner Ashley Roman, Commissioner Michelle Curry, and Chrissy Chard

Excused 2 - Commissioner Iona LongSoldier, and Dierdre Gilliam

Absent 3 - Commissioner Marco Vega, Council Member Craig Kim, and Council Member Renee Chacon

2. Land acknowledgement

Vice Chair Roman provided the land acknowledgement.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Q&A with Heidi Hugdahl (City Attorney's Office)

The board discussed their role in local advocacy work, and actions that are available to them. The DEI Commission can not take a stance on an issue when representing the city, but can as individuals. The DEI Commission can, however, uplift voices of the community and bring those opinions to the attention of City Council.

The board inquired about any upcoming trainings there might be for civic engagement, and discussed the many different ways they could bring something to the attention of City Council.

5. Approval of Minutes

[Min 25-205](#)

August Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Stranahan made a motion to approve the minutes of the August meeting. Commissioner Chard seconded the motion.

Ayes: 7 - Commissioner Gonzalez-De La Rosa, Commissioner Carbajal, Commissioner Hall, Stranahan, Roman, Commissioner Curry and Chard

Excused: 2 - Commissioner LongSoldier and Gilliam

6. Subcommittee Reports

a. Legislation & Education

i. Council Report

There was no Council Report with council member absences.

ii. Upcoming Legislation & Proclamations

Dates for upcoming Indigenous Peoples Day and Native American Heritage Month proclamations were shared.

Information about the SpeakUp event on Thursday was shared.

Group reviewed City Council work schedule and noted particular interest in land use, urban renewal, and PD grant topics.

Staff shared upcoming state legislation updates that were sent from Member Gilliam in advance.

b. Signature Events

i. November Events

Board discussed the possibility of bringing JROTC groups from the high schools to the Rec Centers for a presentation on Veterans Day.

November movie night, in celebration of Native American Heritage Month, is scheduled for November 21 at 6pm at Eagle Pointe Rec Center. The group decided to watch Brother Bear at that event.

c. Recruitment, Engagement & Partnerships

i. Hispanic Heritage Debrief

Tabling activities were a success. The board discussed the potential of displaying the maps at a Rec Center(s).

Swag is running low. The board will discuss purchasing more at the next meeting.

d. Resource Compiling & Spanish Translations

The board discussed the purpose of the resource compiling project, and decided to redirect those efforts towards building a partnership with the Community Well-Being Division (CWB). The board requested a presentation on CWB's programs and offerings at the next meeting ahead of the retreat, and then to have a member of CWB attend our first in person meeting in 2026. The board hopes building this partnership can help go beyond spot events and into building belonging in the community.

7. October Agenda Setting

The October agenda will include an overview of CWB, final planning of the November events, swag to order, and the beginning discussions of 2026 goals and subcommittees.

8. New Business

Staff reminded the board that the annual planning retreat will happen in person on Nov.8 from 9am-1pm in the Active Adults Center in Bison Ridge Rec Center. Food will be provided. There will be no November or December meetings.

The group discussed the possibility of having a newsletter or finding different avenues where they could engage with the community to get their thoughts on upcoming issues.

9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm by Vice Chair Roman.

****Subcommittee meetings to take place immediately following this meeting.****

Subcommittees did not take place due to time and attendance.