



**MINUTES**

**Welcoming America Commission - Regular Session Agenda  
 Government Center Boardroom, 1st Floor, Oak Conference Room  
 115 E. Washington St., Bloomington, IL 61701  
 Monday, April 20, 2026 - 4:00 PM**

The Welcoming America Commission convened in regular session at 4:00PM. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Nair.

**Roll Call**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>
Surinder Sethi	Commissioner	Absent
Adinda Akmal	Commissioner	Present
Jishnuram Nair	Commissioner	Present
Courtney Eddlemon	Commissioner	Absent
Archana Nadkarni	Commissioner	Present

**Public Comment**

No one was present to provide public comment, nor were any emails received.

**Consent Agenda**

*Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled from the Consent Agenda are listed and voted on separately.*

Staff Liaison, Michael Hurt, discussed the approval of the Consent Agenda.

**Chair Akmal made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nadkarni, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**

Item 4.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the August 19, 2024 Corrected Minutes of the Welcoming America Commission Meeting. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Item 4.B. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the April 21, 2025 Minutes of the Welcoming America Commission Meeting. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Item 4.C. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the September 22, 2025 Minutes of the Welcoming America Commission Special Session Meeting. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Item 4.D. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the February 17, 2026 Minutes of the Welcoming America Commission Meeting. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

**The Commissioner Nair directed the Staff Liaison to call roll:**

**Ayes:** Akmal, Nair, Nadkarni

**Motion Carried.**

**Regular Agenda**

Item 5.A. Discussion of Transferring the Powers and Duties of the Welcoming America Commission to the Human Relations Commission. (Recommended Motion: None; Presentation only.)

Commissioner Nair stated the purpose of the discussion was to open talk about the Welcoming America Commission (WAC) being dissolved and the duties transferred to the Human Relations Commission (HRC). He shared that the WAC had had quorum issues for a very long time and that it was believed that the WAC's goals would align with the HRC's goals.

Dan Brady, Mayor, and Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, were present to participate and facilitate the discussion.

Mayor Brady talked about the importance of valuing each board and commission member's time and that because the WAC had had long-standing quorum issues often those showing up for the meetings weren't having their time valued. He shared his focus on streamlining boards and commissions and how he thought moving the WAC's duties to the HRC made most sense.

He then asked City Clerk Yocum to share more details about how the changes could move forward. She started by sharing the WAC statistics on 2024 and 2025 meetings. In 2024 eight meetings were scheduled, six were cancelled ahead of time because the Staff Liaison knew a quorum would not be available, one had no quorum, and one was held. In 2025 thirteen meetings were scheduled, six were cancelled ahead of time due to the advance knowledge a quorum would be lacking, seven had no quorum, and two were held. She stressed the importance of the Commission, shared the Commission's history, and what it would take to move forward with the changes discussed including the Code changes required.

City Clerk Yocum talked about the significance attendance has on a board/commission and that she understood how important it was to make sure that members of the community and those considering moving to the community felt welcomed. She stated that her goal today was to answer any questions of the Commission and then gauge each member's interest in continuing to serve on a City board/commission in the future. She emphasized that they had many options: (1) I want to serve on the HRC knowing that an expansion of the HRC's board would have to be approved; (2) I want to continue serving, but on a different board/commission; and (3) My availability/interests have changed and I'm ready to move on. She stated that they could share their interest during or after the meeting.

Commissioner Nair expressed his continued interest in serving. His preference was to continue serving over Welcoming America duties via the HRC, but if he was not able to join the HRC would consider other boards/commissions.

City Clerk Yocum mentioned that her and her team were working to audit all City boards/commissions and had taken on maintaining the City's website regarding boards/commissions.

Commissioner Nair asked about HRC's mission. City Clerk Yocum stated that she would look it up.

Mayor Brady emphasized his interest in expanding the number of members on the HRC.

City Clerk Yocum read the HRC's mission and the affiliated organizations/businesses she knew partnered with the HRC. She, again, shared why she believed the HRC was the right Commission to take on the WAC's duties.

All the Commissioners agreed.

Mr. Hurt then asked City Clerk Yocum about next steps, and she reiterated the Code edits that would need approved by City Council. She shared that the HRC meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4:30pm at the Library.

Mayor Brady confirmed with all the Commissioners present that they had interest in serving on the HRC and that they were supportive of the HRC absorbing the duties of the WAC.

City Clerk Yocum stated that, based on the discussion, she would work with the Legal Department to finalize Code edits for the Council to consider dissolving the WAC, the HRC absorbing the duties of the WAC, and expanding the HRC to accommodate additional members. She provided a hypothetical timeline for the edits and, if approved, potential appointments to the HRC.

Mayor Brady stated that he was excited to have the Commissioners' talents expanded to the HRC and for the WAC duties to remain a focus of the City.

### **Commission Member Comments**

No separate Commissioner comments were made.

### **Adjournment**

**Chair Nadkarni made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Akmal, to adjourn the meeting.**

**The Commissioner Nair directed the Staff Liaison to call roll:**

**Ayes:** Akmal, Nair, Nadkarni

**Motion Carried (viva voce).**

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

**ATTEST**



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Dan Brady, Mayor



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Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

