



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
northfieldmn.gov

Meeting Minutes - Draft Human Rights Commission

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Schuyler Vogel called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Present: 5 - Commissioner Bruce Morlan, Chair Schuyler Vogel, Commissioner Jess Toft, Commissioner Kelli Podracky and Vice Chair Adam Gebler

Absent: 3 - Commissioner Veronica Gamino, Commissioner Emy Farley and Commissioner Rihanna Gonzalez

Also present: City Administrator Ben Martig, Northfield Police Chief Jeff Schroeffer, and Meeting Associate Kirsten Fjeld Zillmer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Bruce Morlan, seconded by Commissioner Kelli Podracky, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Morlan, Chair Vogel, Commissioner Toft, Commissioner Podracky and Vice Chair Gebler

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [25-228](#) February 26, 2025 HRC Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Morlan, seconded by Vice Chair Adam Gebler, to approve the minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Morlan, Chair Vogel, Commissioner Toft, Commissioner Podracky and Vice Chair Gebler

PRESENTATIONS

2. [25-229](#) Police Department Update.

City of Northfield Police Chief Jeff Schroeffer provided an update on current staffing numbers within the Northfield Police Department along with number of calls taken by the department.

Chief Schroeffer outlined the Northfield Police Department's policy regarding immigration enforcement, emphasizing that the NPD does not get involved in immigration enforcement as it does not have the authority to do so. He stressed the importance of the police department maintaining the trust of the immigrant community so that members of that community are willing to report crimes and cooperate with the police department.

He answered questions regarding the need for this messaging to be shared with immigrant community along with the limits of ICE to enter schools, churches, and hospitals.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

REGULAR AGENDA

STAFF UPDATES

4. [25-231](#) Staff Report.

City Administrator Ben Martig noted that the written staff report is included in the meeting packet and stated that he is available to answer any questions.

3. [25-230](#) 2025 Subcommittees.

Vice Chair Gebler reported that the LGBTQ+ Support Subcommittee met to discuss the upcoming Pride in the Park event. Questions were asked about written materials available, the possibility of using QR codes to share information and creating city "merch," what budget is available to the HRC, and the need for public feedback. Chief Schroepfer addressed the possibility of counter protests and the need for de-escalation along with legal issues regarding permitting and public spaces.

Chair Vogel discussed the best way for the HRC to present resolutions asking for city support of LGBTQ+ and immigration rights to the city council. Commissioner Podracky noted the need to include voices from the LGBT+ community on resolution requests and the hope that a resolution would be ready for the June Pride event. Administrator Martig indicated that he could assist in presenting a resolution request to the city council.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Morlan noted the Northfield Rotary Club's Braver Angels' Action Team has been participating in a local initiative, "Foundations of Peace," which examines the impact the food plays in the peace process.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Jess Toft, seconded by Vice Chair Gebler, to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m.