



Northfield Human Rights Commission
MEETING MINUTES RECORD

DRAFT

Meeting: Human Rights Commission

Date: June 13, 2019 **Location:** City Hall **Start Time:** PM **Adjourn Time:** PM

Members present: Mar Valdecantos, Justin London, Angelique Dietz, Richard DeBeau (leaves at 7), Shafqat Iqbal, Larry Fowler, Enrique Reyes Dominguez, Joan Hepburn,

Members Absent: Freweyni Kaleab, Lisa Moore, Lucy Miron Gonzales, Rigoberto Lazaro, Isaac Riggins—Youth Commissioner, Keara Cooney—Youth Commissioner, Chloe Thomas-Green -Youth Commissioner

Liaison Present: Ben Martig—City Administrator, Beth Kallestad – City, Clarice Grabau - City Council Member, Tom Baraniak – School Board

Liaison Absent:

Others present:

Item	Discussion/Conclusions	Action
Call to Order	Roll call and introduction	A roll call was taken of members present and a quorum was present. Jill Watson has resigned from the HRC.
Approval of Agenda	Review	The agenda was approved as presented.
Open Microphone for Residents' to Express Concerns	N/A	
Approval of Minutes	March 2019	A motion was made by Richard and seconded by Shafqat, to approve the minutes as corrected: Justin London did not attend the March meeting. Motion passed.
	May 2019	NO official minutes.

Item	Discussion/Conclusions	Action
Presentation		
Agenda		
Najwa's Community Picnic (19-905)	Report by various planning committee members present on arrangements made so far.	- Flyers and Posters ready; planning committee will distribute - Final meeting June 26, 6:30 p.m. at Jefferson - Larry will be there on the morning of June 29 for tent set up - Mar: Maria will deliver food - Beth –location of power lines need to take place; we need to place a stick where the tent can go. - Musicians: Ruby Loretto and Bonnie and the Clydes - Beth will purchase compostable plates and order City's garbage cans
City ID Names amendment (19-906)	Further discussion on the topic of accommodating the transgender community as to how their name can appear on the City ID. Mar explained the request to not have the full legal name on it, but just the legal initials. Point: legal name changes are too expensive for most Northfielders. Beth had checked with City Attorney who pointed out that full name is required and initials are not an option, the way the ordinance is written. Enrique (bank employee) points out that the bank would not accept a City ID with initials rather than the full legal name. Joan reports that she frequently is asked to ID herself in town, and without a driver's license, she uses her City ID. Mar asked Ben on the possibility of Northfielders who do not live within City boundaries. Ben: cannot be done, but the County might be more open to it now that Nfld	Action: Beth suggests to conduct a survey on the use of the City ID among those who have one. It was agreed this was a good idea and that the Library social media would be the best way to do it. Beth will check with Teresa Johnson, Library Director. Action: Enrique and Mar will work on developing a one-page information sheet to be shared with businesses and the Chamber of Commerce to educate all employees.

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	city can testify to the simplicity of running the program. Enrique comments that there is a need for more education among business and their employees.	
Budget (19-907)	Budget: \$3900 (calendar year) Special budget for translation equipment for the community (\$3400). Ben will look into funding for it in addition to the regular HRC budget. It can be checked out by organizations, most likely from IT in City Hall, as library has space restraints. Ben will also put in a request for a mobile PA system to be used at outdoor city sponsored events.	Action: Larry moves to request the City to give voting rights to all youth members. Angelique Seconds. Discussion: Justin would not approve as this would add to the quorum problem that was identified and not all youth members are equal in commitment and attendance. Vote: Yes: 6 (Joan, Larry, Angelique, Mar, Enrique) Abstain: 1 (Justin)
Quorum issues (19-908)	Beth: quorum rules are simple - half plus one. Ben – we can ask the advisory members to opt out of their voting rights in order to alleviate the challenge of meeting the quorum. Mar: can we request that all youth members each get their own vote? Look into background and other advisory.	
Welcoming America Organization (19-909)	Cities can join (e.g. Austin, Winona), for \$1,500/year. They provide training etc. Beth will conduct more research. Mar suggested we could take more responsibility ourselves without spending the \$1,500	
Workforce Housing in Rice County (19-910)	Mar: Rice County is hosting a Housing Summit on workforce housing, including employers. Various commissions involved with	

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	housing (HRA) will attend. It's unclear what the role of the HRC will be on this.	
Reports From Commission Members		
	Valdecantos: related to the school district: the school district will receive state money through the Achievement and Integration Fund, allowing hiring a staff person to develop programming to facilitate integration and improve achievement. International Day of Peace – theme is Climate Change as a threat to peace. September 21 at Carleton, Weitz Center. Oral history of the immigrant community – project is coming to an end, conducted by the Historical Society; Claudia Menendez Lang and Mar worked on this. 10 people have been interviewed and ALL topics related to immigration that are discussed at the national level also have come up in these interviews. All information has all been cleaned off identifiable markers. Hopefully it will result in a published book. HealthFinders training on Implicit Bias, Micro Aggressions and Oppression. London: Dietz: Northfield Shares is hosting a community dinner on August 25.	

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	DeBeau: announcement on Rotary program on Human Trafficking Fowler: Dundas will get a new City Hall. Reyes Dominiguez: Hepburn: Indigenous Day –Joan would like to learn more. Would like to stress the theme of welcoming. Mar – planning committee, incl both colleges, has started. Connections have been made with Sue Garwood, director of Rice County Historical Museum which has a great exhibit of the area. Angelique: MIA has exhibit on art by indigenous women.	
Report From Liaisons		
	Martig: Grabau: Baraniak: School Board is discussing a “late start” for middle and high schools, starting at 8:30-8:45, to begin in fall 2020, perhaps. E-learning days during snow days have worked well this past winter. Justin asked if Schoolboard has a good notion of internet accessibility among all students. Tom reports that access is 95%. There will be fine tuning to this option to avoid a call for E-learning	

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	being issued to easily as this is a hardship for working families. Plans for the new Greenvale School have been approved – it’s going to be a 2-story building which allows for higher energy efficiency. Kallestad: • still working on commission and board training • get topics and materials to Beth early for inclusion in materials.	
Adjourn		
Adjourn the meeting		A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Shafqat to adjourn the meeting at 8 PM. Motion passed.
	Thursday, June 13 , 2019, at 7:00, in City Hall	

Submitted by: Angelique Dietz, HRC Secretary