

# All Boards and Commissions

January 29, 2025

## **1. What goals or priorities would you give the city for the coming 2-4 years? How do they compare to the goals Mayor Zweifel discussed?**

- Climate action
- Affordable housing
  - Increase density/reduce sprawl
- Decreasing tax rates
  - Increase industrial and commercial zoning
  - Emphasize incremental development
- More athletic facilities for youth
  - Increase access to free indoor third spaces
- Bike lane clarity (both in design and for driver's ed)
- Pedestrian safety
  - Close Division St to cars
- Policies and procedures to protect trans, immigrant, and other minority community members
- Determine policies/procedures surrounding cannabis sale

## **2. How does Board leadership impact youth experience?**

- Provides insight into government; allows for youth representation
- Gets youth involved in speaking up and speaking out
- Youth are more informed
- Board leadership can start conversations and invite youth input
- Board leadership shapes the experience with the Board
- Provides a bigger picture view
- Could make a bigger impact with clearer communication
- Provides a greater spread of information; exposed to new information; youth learn about the community and see changes that occur

## **3. What voices are missing on your Board or Commission? How would you gather their perspectives?**

- Engaging younger people - elementary/middle school
  - Riverwalk stands, presentations in civics classes, presentations at Arcadia to educate and promote engagement
- More awareness to meetings - make it easier to view and more desirable to engage
  - Make clear that public comments are listened to and accounted for
- What happens when English isn't a person's first language? - if interpreters aren't available at every meeting, individuals who don't speak English can't make their voice heard.
  - Listening sessions once a month?
- Affordable housing—don't often hear from people who need the affordable housing. Most comments/decisions made by people not directly seeking affordable housing
- Seeking more explanation and clearer communication (Planning Commission)
- MYC and DYC made up primarily of high-achieving students - not a representative sample of the student body
- Seeking more age diversity on the Parks and Rec board because Board work impacts all ages of Northfield residents
- More men on the Arts and Culture Commission

**4. How do you think a city ban on menthol and flavored tobacco would affect underage tobacco/e-cigarette use?**

- Many students believe a ban wouldn't affect rates of use—youth would just get it somewhere else
  - [Comment from Martha: these comments are consistent with social norm perceptions that more youth use than actually do.]
- Students recommend taxing instead of banning - seeking to provide Northfield with more tax revenue
  - [Comment from Martha: The idea that Northfield should at least benefit from how tobacco companies target youth feels...bad.]

**5. What out-of-school activities are you involved in? What makes you sign up for activities?**

- School: Knowledge Bowl, Tennis, Cross Country, LINK, RALIE, Robotics, Theatre, Swimming, Speech, Golf, Track, Soccer, Lacrosse

- Community: Dance, Theatre, Ballet, part-time jobs
- Why: Make a change; entertainment; friends; college resume; staying connected; having fun; beats boredom; builds community; passion; necessity; give back