



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
ci.northfield.mn.us

Meeting Minutes - Draft Human Rights Commission

Wednesday, August 24, 2022

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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

Acting Chair Wornson called the Human Rights Commission (HRC) Meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Introductions were made.

Present: 5 - Glenda Orrego, Bruce Morlan, Barb Wornson, Jennie Eubank and Martin Rosas

Absent: 3 - Veronica Gamino, Matthew Lovick and Adam Wale

ALSO PRESENT

Advisory Member Mar Valdecantos; Youth Representatives Aidyn Plasch, Sarah Ripka; Tom Baraniak, School Board Representative; Mayor Rhonda Pownell; Claudia Garcia, Staff Liaison

ABSENT

Advisory Member Lucy Gonzalez Miron; Youth Representative Ana George

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Morlan, second by Commissioner Orrego, to approve the August 24, 2022 Meeting Agenda. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Orrego, Morlan, Wornson, Eubank and Rosas

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [22-554](#) July 27, 2022 HRC Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [07-27-2022 HRC Meeting Minutes Draft](#)

Motion by Commissioner Morlan, second by Commissioner Orrego, to approve the July 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Orrego, Morlan, Wornson, Eubank and Rosas

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATIONS

None

STAFF UPDATES

2. [22-555](#) Staff Report

Attachments: [3 - NREEC DEI Training Flier](#)

Staff Liaison Garcia reviewed the Staff Report. Of particular note:

** Racial Equity Core Team discussed the Northfield Racial & Ethnic Equity Collaborative (NREEC) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) community training held on August 3rd and 10th. Advisory Member Valdecantos asked if this training was recorded. Garcia will check on this and report back to the HRC.*

** Juneteenth approved by City Council as a Holiday.*

** Hispanic Heritage Celebration: Saturday, September 17th, 11 AM to 6 PM. The City will staff two tables; the HRC will also have a table. HRC members who want to volunteer to promote the event, set-up the HRC table, staff the table to meet and greet the public, hand out the protected classes brochure or to clean-up should contact Garcia; volunteers would not need to work more than 30 minutes shifts. The event is being promoted on city web page and through social media.*

** Localist, a Community Events Calendar, available through the City of Northfield web site and at: <https://events.northfieldmn.gov>, has been established for public use. The City is hosting virtual training for use of this calendar in Spanish and English on Thursday, August 25th.*

** Northfield Public Broadcasting for Northfield is available on Charter Spectrum Channels 180 and 187*

NEW BUSINESS

3. [22-556](#) Election of Human Rights Commission Chair/Vice Chair.

Due to the resignation of the HRC Chair, Linda Larson, on August 15, 2022, the Human Rights Commission will need to elect a new Chair. Only voting members of the Commission may hold office as Chair and Vice Chair. Youth members are not eligible to be elected as officers of the HRC.

Adam Wale, Vice Chair, indicated they would accept a nomination for Chair. If nominated and approved, the Commission will need to elect a new Vice Chair.

Acting Chair Wornson announced that nominations are open for the position of Chair. Motion by Commissioner Orrego to table nominations until the next meeting, indicating that members not present at this meeting should have a vote in this matter and also that, due to the short notice of this vacancy, there was not enough time to consider this action. Commissioner Morlan seconded the motion.

Commissioner Eubank would like additional information as to the election process.

School Board Representative Baraniak questioned if the vacancy left by the resignation of Commissioner Larson could be filled by the next meeting.

Mayor Pownell indicated they are in the process of Boards and Commissions appointments; new appointees recommended by Pownell will be brought to the City Council for consideration at the first meeting in October. The Mayor also indicated that the City Administrator Martig, in coordination with the City Council, is considering bringing all Boards and Commissions memberships down to seven voting members. The HRC

was expanded to nine voting members; if approved, the membership would return to seven voting members, therefore, the position vacated by Commissioner Larson might not be replaced.

In addition, Advisory Members as non-voting positions on the HRC, might not be continued, as there are opportunities for the public to participate in HRC meetings through public comment and the ability for the public to access meeting agendas and minutes; this will be voted on by the City Council.

Advisory Member Valdecantos asked if former members can be on a mailing list for ongoing work of the HRC; Pownell indicated the 'Notify Me' function on City web site is established for that purpose. Valdecantos indicated they will not be returning at end of their term ending on December 31, 2022.

Garcia indicated that, if the HRC membership does not vote in a new Chair, Wale would be the Acting Chair through December 2022, at which time additional and renewed members, will vote on officers for the HRC.

Voting was resumed.

Motion by Commissioner Orrego to table nominations and election of Chair until the next meeting. Second by Commissioner Morlan. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Orrego, Morlan, Wornson, Eubank and Rosas

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. [22-557](#) Refinement and Prioritization of Human Rights Commission Work Plan for 2023

Attachments: [1 - Northfield Human Rights Commission \(2021-2024 Strategic Work Plan\)DRAFT](#)
[2 - The Annual Picnic Background in English](#)
[3 - Northfield Racial Equity Action Plan ADOPTED 07212020](#)
[4 - Protections Chart 2 21 tcm1061-467172](#)

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) role is to advance anti-discrimination efforts under protection of the State Human Rights Act (see-attached chart). Additionally, the City Council has identified Diversity, Equity and Inclusion areas with priority around race equity. The Commission work should consider this priority area and how the commission can collaboratively advance the goals of the City Council in this area.

Commissioners reviewed the HRC Strategic Plan (Work Plan) for 2022-2024. A number of additions and changes were suggested. Staff Liaison Garcia will update the Strategic Plan to include these changes and will include this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

Noted among the discussion:

- * January
 - * Martin Luther King Community Celebration - January 16, 2023
 - * Human Rights Award Presentation
 - * National Day of Racial Healing, Resolution by City Council
 - * National Day of Service

- * February
 - * New Member Orientation
 - * Establish dates for Police, School District and Housing & Redevelopment Authority (April) updates to HRC
- * March
 - * Tuesday, March 23, 2023, State of the City Address
- * April
 - * Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA), Melissa Hanson
 - * Proclamation by City of Northfield declaring April as Fair Housing Month
 - * Board & Commission Recognition Event
- * May
 - * Plan for International Festival (Community Picnic)
- * June
 - * Pride in the Park
 - * Education or tabling at events to inform the public of the Human Rights Commission and to encourage applicants to apply for the HRC. Applications are accepted July 1st through August 1st.
- * July
 - * Community Picnic, now known as International Festival
- * August
 - * Plan for International Day of Peace Event
 - * High School Teacher Racial Equity Training - reference training recorded on January 24, 2018, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQVe_cfUJOA
- * September
 - * Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, Saturday, September 17, 2022, 11AM-6PM, sponsored by the Northfield Public Library - music, dancing, art and exhibits, performances, food trucks.
 - * International Day of Peace - Official UN date is September 21, 2022; "End racism. Build peace." ; Cannon Valley Friends Meeting will celebrate International Day of Peace on Saturday, September 24, 2022, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM; Quaker Meetinghouse; HRC can choose to participate.
 - * Discuss changing the date of the November and December meetings. The November meeting is currently scheduled for the day before Thanksgiving; the December meeting for December 28th. Suggestions: a long meeting in October in place of the November meeting; change the date of both the November and December meetings.
 - * Discuss promoting nominations for the Human Rights Award. Garcia indicated there will be press releases and information on social media. Staff Liaison Garcia, along with NPB Manager Sam Temple, could create a video to promote the Human Rights Award. Appoint a subcommittee to begin planning for the Human Rights Award: request for nominations, presentation.
- * October
 - * Indigenous Peoples' Day, second Monday in October; Monday, October 10, 2022, includes reading and posting the Land Acknowledgement Statement.
 - * Global Diversity Month
 - * Board and Commission Training Event
 - * Discuss and consider nominees submitted for Human Rights Award.
 - * Establish subcommittee to prepare for MLK Celebration
- * November
 - * Vote on a recipient for the Human Rights Award; contact individual to determine if they will accept award; have plaque prepared.
- * December

Additional Discussion:

- * 2020 and 2021 accomplishments on HRC web page should be added. Efforts towards

the City ID, coordination with Rice County Neighbors United, the Conversion Therapy Ban could be included.

** Commissioner Wornson will determine if the Northfield Public Library will continue with "Northfield Reads." If so, Commissioners can decide to help promote this effort.*

** Community Picnic, now known as International Festival. Determine if event could be co-sponsored with the Northfield Rotary.*

** The Northfield Shares event, Northfield Shares A Dinner, held throughout downtown Northfield, was discussed. This event occurred in August 2019.*

** Commissioner Morlan referenced the Mayo Clinic Passport Club; perhaps the HRC could promote an event where a participant would collect monthly passport stamps highlighting various diversity, equity and inclusion events or information, with some type of award at the end of the year.*

** Discuss roles and responsibilities of the HRC - Community Engagement, information dissemination.*

** Consider how the HRC can incorporate the Racial Equity Action Plan in their work.*

** Invite a representative from the MN HRC to speak to the HRC.*

** Garcia is researching training opportunities for Commission members, to include youth members.*

REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS AND CHAIR

Advisory Member Valdecantos gave an update on the status of the Viking Terrace Association work regarding actions by the new ownership of Lakeshore Management, which rules were found to be not legal by the MN Attorney General's office. MN Attorney General, Keith Ellison, will be available to discuss fair, affordable housing and tenants' rights at Emmaus Baptist Church, 712 Linden St N, on Friday, August 26th at 6:00 PM. Weather permitting, they will walk to Viking Terrace, a community of 185 homes.

Garcia suggested establishing subcommittees for events throughout the year. Members who want to participate in any subcommittees should let Garcia know. Wornson will create a chart with this information; no subcommittee can have more than four Commission members.

** Commissioner Orrego and Youth Representative Rosas expressed interest in working with the Hispanic Heritage Celebration.*

** Commissioner Wornson will work on Hispanic Heritage Celebration and preparations for the Martin Luther King Celebration.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Eubank, second by Commissioner Morlan, to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 PM. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Orrego, Morlan, Wornson, Eubank and Rosas