



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Final Human Rights Commission

Thursday, December 9, 2021

6:00 PM

Northfield Police Department - Training Room

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

Chair Wornson called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Present: 6 - Linda Larson, Mar Valdecantos, Barb Wornson, Commissioner Bruce Morlan, Matthew Lovick and Ella Mayer

Absent: 2 - Jennie Autonoe and Commissioner Veronica Gamino

ALSO PRESENT

Commissioner Valdecantos arrived at 6:10 PM.

Advisory Member Lucy Gonzalez Miron; Youth Representative Ana George; Tom Baraniak, School Board Representative; Beth Kallestad, Staff Liaison; Judy Becker, Meeting Associate

ABSENT

Advisory Member Abdullahai Abdullahai; Youth Representative Leaf Pennock

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Morlan, second by Commissioner Lovick, to approve the December 9, 2021 Meeting Agenda. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Larson, Wornson, Commissioner Morlan and Lovick

Not Present: 1 - Mattson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [21-674](#) November 9, 2021 HRC Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Larson, second by Commissioner Lovick, to approve the Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2021 as written. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Larson, Wornson, Commissioner Morlan and Lovick

Not Present: 1 - Mattson

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATIONS

None

OLD BUSINESS**2. [21-675](#) MLK Celebration**

Commissioner Wornson reported on the work of the subcommittee for the Martin Luther King (MLK) celebration:

- * Valdecantos and Gonzalez Miron will provide a tribute to Father Dennis Dempsey, past Human Rights Awardee recipient, who died this year.*
- * Human Rights Award - Matt Hillmann, Superintendent of Northfield Public Schools will accept the award and will be present at the MLK Celebration.*
- * Theme - Social Action*
- * Speaker - Reverend Cindy Maddock*
- * Music - Laura Baker Services video of their original composition, "Let's Take a Step"*
- * Event will be held via Zoom on Monday, January 17, 2022 at 7:00 PM. City Communications Office will set up the technology required.*

3. [21-676](#) Update on Conversion Therapy Ban

Commissioner Larson reported that the subcommittee is waiting to get more information from the City of Red Wing about their Conversion Therapy Ban, as adopted by the City. The subcommittee is also inquiring as to the initial steps taken in Red Wing when first beginning to work on a ban.

NEW BUSINESS**4. [21-677](#) HRC Work Plan for 2022**

*Advisory Member Gonzalez Miron arrived at 6:19 PM.
Youth Representative George arrived at 6:20 PM.*

Kallestad provided staff report, File #21-677, as a guide for the Human Rights Commission (HRC) in developing a work plan for 2022. The work should, as much as possible, align with the City's 2021-2024 Strategic Plan.

To begin discussion, commissioners were asked to consider the following items:

- * Topics*
- * Willingness to lead*
- * Resources needed*
- * What are the deliverables*

Commission members began work on TOPICS. Each member provided several topic items to consider at the January 2022 meeting, with the other items to follow.

*Commissioner Morlan left at 6:57 PM.
Commissioner Lovick left at 7:06 PM.*

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Valdecantos reported on Mercado Local December 2021, held at the

Northfield Depot. The creative and colorful poster, created by ROKATURAS for the Mercado was provided.

Commission members began a discussion about the make-up of the HRC, including the number of members, voting vs. non-voting members, concern about members continuously not in attendance at meetings. Discussion will follow at the January 2022 meeting.

STAFF UPDATES

5. [21-678](#)

Staff Report

Kallestad reviewed the staff report as included in the Agenda Packet, File 321-678.

Kallestad also reported that, since her last day of employment with the City is December 27, 2021, and until a replacement is hired for the position, the interim Staff Liaison for the HRC will be City Administrator Ben Martig.

Per the HRC By-laws, new appointees to the HRC will begin attending with the January 2022 meeting; new Chair and Vice-Chair will be voted on at the February 2022 meeting, with those individuals starting their positions at the March 2022 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wornson adjourned the meeting at 7:24 PM.