



Northfield Human Rights Commission MEETING MINUTES RECORD

DRAFT

Meeting: Human Rights Commission

Date: February 14, 2018 **Location:** City Hall **Start Time:** 6:10 PM **Adjourn Time:** PM

Members present: Mar Valdecantos, Justin London, Angelique Dietz, Larry Fowler, Rigoberto Lazaro, Freweyni Kaleab, Jill Watson, Enrique Reyes Dominguez; Isaac Riggins—Youth Commissioner, Keara Cooney—Youth Commissioner, Chloe Thomas-Green, Youth Commissioner

Members Absent: Richard DeBeau, Lucy Gonzales Miron, Shafqat Igbal

Liaison Present: Ben Martig—City Administrator, Tom Baraniak – Northfield School Board, Clarice Grabau – City Council

Liaison Absent:

Others present: Bruce King, St. Olaf College and Joe Hargis, Carleton College; Corinne Smith, Northfield Resident

Item	Discussion/Conclusions	Action
Call to Order	Roll call and introduction of three new Commission members: Freweyni, Jill and Enrique. We also welcomed new School Board liaison Tom Baraniak.	A roll call was taken of members present and a quorum was present.
Approval of Agenda	Review	The agenda was approved as presented.
Open Microphone for Residents to Express Concerns	N/A	
Approval of Minutes		A motion was made by LF, and seconded by KC. Motion passed to improve the minutes of the January 2019 meeting as presented.
Presentation		
	None scheduled	
Agenda Items	Discussion/Conclusion	Action
IV 2) New Commissioner Orientation and Existing Member Refresher (see attachment packet to agenda for reference purpose).	All information on the video is included in the package. Ben went over the HRC Ordinance and took questions. Justin suggests to update the bylaw regarding number of Members and Non-Voting Advisory Members.	Ben sent all Commissioners an email with the request to indicate if they wish to receive a paper copy of agenda items going forward, in an effort to reduce paper.
IV-3) Indigenous People Day Resolution Discussion (Presentation by Bruce King and Joe Hargis)	See City ordinance attached to meeting agenda. Presidents Postkanzer (Carleton), Anderson (St. Olaf) and the Mayor discussed the desirability of a more intentional recognition of the fact that the land we live and work on was taken from its original	

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IV-5	inhabitants, mostly Dakota tribes who were pushed out and settled westward of this area, mostly. At the meeting the Mayor suggestion to bring this up for discussion with the HRC and include other community entities like the School District, the Historical Society, etc. Goal: Indigenous peoples will be recognized at official city and community gatherings, as well as at the Colleges. Corinne Smith (visitor and previous HRC member) stressed the importance of the HRC to hold City accountable to the Ordinance on Indigenous People’s Day to make sure that not only the City marks the Day, but that businesses and other organization around town recognize the Ordinance.	
IV-6	Review Martin Luther King Celebration 1/21 Larry: wonderful event Clarice: Youth Choir was great presence Chloe: reported on how the discussion at MLK sparked conversations at the NHS on use of the N-word at the school. These discussion had a good turn out at meetings during flex-time. Corinne: diversify performers, and ask them to focus on the theme. Ben: open mic – limit it? Emcee and Chair can control that and we can announce a time limit ahead of the event. Discuss the process: we need to be more active in reaching out to community to get nominees, so we go beyond reaching out to our friends. Justin, let HRC make nominations as well and move the process up so we can conduct this at regular meeting times. It was recommended to mention the award at any time the Boards and Commissions come together for trainings and recognitions to promote awareness of the award.	
IV-4	Elections of Officers:	Call for Chair nominations: Larry: Justin Angelique: Mar Justin removed himself from the nomination. With no other nominations: Mar Valdecantos is effectively the Chair through February 2020.

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IC-7 National Day of Healing	City passed the ordinance and invites the HRC to think about it, as possibly to recognize in conjunction with Martin Luther King Day, as it is the day after MLK nationally and focuses on healing from acts of racism.	Call for Vice-Chair nominations: Angelique nominates Justin With no other nominations: Justin London is effectively the Vice-Chair through February 2020 Call for Secretary: Larry: Angelique With no other nominations: Angelique Dietz is effectively the Secretary for 2019 through February 2020
Reports From Commission Members		
	Valdecantos: *Larry and Mar went to the School Board to address events of hate speech. * Nfld News Article: Chloe will draft. Dietz: *Valdecantos and Dietz serve on the Complete Count Committee. *St. Olaf on-campus City ID applications, March 7. Feb 26 presentation by Valdecantos and Dietz at Student Government Association meeting. Clemens-Green: report on Owatona events of racial slurs in relation to Black History Month. Police was called in, leading to arrests and citations. This was discussed at the NHS panels. Mar encourages brainstorming on how to address this in our community. Jill Watson: Green Card Voices project, references previous work with the Fblt Diversity Coalition.	
Report From Liaisons		
	Grabau: the City Council will vote in April on the proposal by the City's Planning Committee to life restrictions in town on so-called ADUs: Auxiliary Dwelling Units, as one way to relieve the shortage of affordable housing in our community. The lack of affordable housing is frequently mentioned at	HRC will discuss the ADUs at its March meeting and consider a resolution in support of them.

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	various forums as a pressing problem affecting low-income individuals and families, as well as elderly, and would contribute to diversity in our neighborhoods. It could provide income to homeowners. In addition, they would not require major investments by the City in infrastructure projects. Martig:	
Adjourn		
Adjourn the meeting		A motion was made by AD and seconded by IR to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 PM. Motion passed.
	Thursday, February 14 , 2018, at 7:00, in City Hall	

Submitted by: Angelique Dietz, HRC Secretary