



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Final Human Rights Commission

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioner Barb Wornson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: 6 - Commissioner Glenda Orrego, Vice Chair Veronica Gamino, Commissioner Bruce Morlan, Commissioner Barb Wornson, Commissioner Schuyler Vogel and Commissioner Brisa Zubia

Absent: 1 - Chair Adam Wale

Also present: Staff Translator Claudia Garcia, Commissioner Rhihanna Gonzales, Commissioner Hannah Pape, Commissioner Ben Parish, Community Development Intern Emery John, and Meeting Associate Kirsten Fjeld Zillmer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Gamino, seconded by Commissioner Vogel, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Commissioner Orrego, Vice Chair Gamino, Commissioner Morlan, Commissioner Wornson, Commissioner Vogel and Commissioner Zubia

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [24-585](#) August 28, 2024 HRC Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Gamino, seconded by Commissioner Zubia, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Commissioner Orrego, Vice Chair Gamino, Commissioner Morlan, Commissioner Wornson, Commissioner Vogel and Commissioner Zubia

PRESENTATIONS

2. [24-586](#) In person presentation "Getting to know the MN ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) and overview" by Karla Esqueda, ACLU Organizer.

Karla Esqueda, ACLU organizer, presented information and answered questions from the commissioners about the work of the MN ACLU, highlighting the ACLU's priorities within the immigrant community. She spoke specifically about legal actions the ACLU undertook in Faribault to address discriminatory housing ordinances in violation of the Fair Housing Act, which resulted in civil judgments that changed those ordinances and provided financial compensation to the plaintiffs. She also outlined the importance of

"Know Your Rights" meetings to provide information and promote self-advocacy within the immigrant community.

3. [24-587](#) 2024 Fair Housing Month presentation

Emery John, Community Development Intern, presented information about the City of Northfield's Fair Housing Statement, highlighting two recent studies looking at affordability and equity in Northfield from which possible solutions and recommendations can be gleaned and which can be used as a benchmark for measuring fair housing in Northfield moving forward. John emphasized issues within the city regarding housing vouchers and the need for the city to address this.

After taking questions from the commissioners, John encouraged commissioners to attend the upcoming Open Air Open House.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. [24-588](#) 2024 Subcommittees.

Commissioner Brisa Zubia reported on the success of last Saturday's Hispanic Heritage Celebration. Commissioner Schuyler Vogel expressed thanks for the city providing funds for upcoming MLK celebration. Commissioner Barb Wornson expressed the need for commissioners to solicit nominations for the Human Rights Award.

STAFF UPDATES

5. [24-589](#) Staff Report.

Spanish Translator Claudia Garcia provided updates on city services while highlighting the new Community Events Calendar and the "Notify Me" link which provides live city project updates. She also provided information on completed staff training regarding civility, cultural and language accessibility, and interpreter etiquette.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

There were no board member or staff reports.

ADJOURNMENT

*Commissioner Barb Wornson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Meeting adjourned.*