



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Human Rights Commission

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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

Chair Schuyler Vogel called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: 5 - Commissioner Bruce Morlan, Chair Schuyler Vogel, Commissioner Jess Toft, Commissioner Kelli Podracky and Commissioner Krissa Anderson

Absent: 2 - Vice Chair Adam Gebler and Commissioner Xiomara Conde Arenas

Also present: Spanish Translator Claudia Garcia and Meeting Associate Kirsten Fjeld Zillmer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Bruce Morlan, seconded by Commissioner Kelli Podracky, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Morlan, Chair Vogel, Commissioner Toft, Commissioner Podracky and Commissioner Anderson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [26-213](#) February 25, 2026 HRC Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Krissa Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Bruce Morlan, to approve the minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Morlan, Chair Vogel, Commissioner Toft, Commissioner Podracky and Commissioner Anderson

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Bruce Morlan noted that he had attended a Citizens' Climate Lobby Training Day and then lobbied on climate change.

Commissioner Kelli Podracky stated that the Northfield Union of Youth is opening The Lock, a youth specific resource center, and that the public is invited to its grand opening on May 18th.

Commissioner Krissa Anderson noted that while Northfield Supporting Neighbors, an

organization founded to help residents affected by ICE, is not seeing ICE in the community as much, immigrant residents are still being picked up from the Rice County Court House and the Rice County Jail. She also indicated that residents who are following the legal process are having their cases denied on technicalities and are then subject to deportation orders.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. [26-214](#) 2026 Subcommittee updates and discussion.

Commissioners Bruce Morlan and Krissa Anderson shared that the Immigration Subcommittee would like to hold a public hearing where organizations that support or are involved with the immigrant community, such as the Community Action Center, the Northfield Police Department, Northfield schools, Northfield Supporting Neighbors, and employers with a significant immigrant workforce, would be invited to provide information and answer questions about their individual perspectives regarding the needs, issues, and available services for the immigrant community. The purpose would be for these participants to not only educate the board, the public, and each other, but also help the HRC determine how to best to serve the immigrant community in Northfield. The technicalities of holding and publicizing such an event were discussed. The subcommittee asked the HRC board members to submit suggestions for possible participants and questions for the hearing. The subcommittee will report back to the HRC as more details are decided.

Commissioners Jess Toft and Kelli Podracky provided information about the ongoing planning that the 2SLGBTQIA+ Subcommittee has been doing in conjunction with the Pride in the Park Committee regarding creating safe zones for neurodivergent Pride in the Park participants. It was explained that the focus will shift from the negative and hateful rhetoric of protesters to providing a safe and joyful space for those who need additional support by providing safe entrances and exits, sensory kits, music, marshals with de-escalation training, community ally support, and technical documentation. Central Park neighbors will be encourage to report noise violations to law enforcement. A press release about these new initiatives will be forthcoming.

STAFF UPDATES

3. [26-215](#) Staff Report.

Spanish Translator Claudia Garcia highlighted two significant settlements that were reached in early 2026 at the state level as a result of lawsuits filed in response to violations of the MN Human Rights Act. She also noted that as of 2027, the City of Northfield website will be completely ADA compliant.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Jess Toft, seconded by Commissioner Krissa Anderson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Morlan, Chair Vogel, Commissioner Toft, Commissioner Podracky and Commissioner Anderson