



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Human Rights Commission

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

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:** 4 - Commissioner Bruce Morlan, Chair Schuyler Vogel, Commissioner Jess Toft and Commissioner Kelli Podracky
- Absent:** 3 - Commissioner Veronica Gamino, Vice Chair Adam Gebler and Commissioner Xiomara Conde Arenas

Also present: Commissioner Rihanna Gonzalez, Spanish Translator Claudia Garcia, and Meeting Associate Kirsten Fjeld Zillmer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [25-348](#) April 23, 2025 HRC Meeting Minutes

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

- Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Morlan, Chair Vogel, Commissioner Toft and Commissioner Podracky

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

- Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Morlan, Chair Vogel, Commissioner Toft and Commissioner Podracky

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. [25-349](#) Consider Recommendation to City Council a Resolution declaring the City of Northfield, Minnesota, as a LGBTQ+ Sanctuary City.

Chair Schuyler Vogel stated that the LGBTQIA+ subcommittee had put together a proposal for the HRC to consider making a recommendation to the Northfield City Council that they adopt a resolution declaring the City of Northfield a LGBTQIA+ Sanctuary City. Commissioner Jess Toft, explained that the LGBTQIA+ subcommittee drafted this

proposal after gathering feedback from attendees at the Northfield Pride in the Park event.

Spanish Translator Claudia Garcia noted that this would reintroduce and reaffirm a previous resolution adopted by the city and would solidify the city's commitment to make Northfield a safe and welcoming place for all residents and visitors, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. This would assure access and protections in all city policies and services including gender affirming health care and it would support the state's "Trans Refuge" legislation.

In further discussion Spanish Translator Garcia noted that the resolution is not a city ordinance and therefore would not have legal precedence after Commissioner Bruce Morlan questioned the possible legal ramification of the resolution. Commissioner Morlan indicated further concerns about the message the city would be sending as it relates to minors and how the city would make decisions that contradict federal policy.

After motion was approved, Spanish Translator Garcia noted that the resolution would be presented at the July 22, 2025 city council meeting and that HRC commissioners would be welcome to attend as a show of support.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kelli Podracky, seconded by Commissioner Jess Toft, to move in favor of the resolution declaring the City of Northfield, Minnesota, as a LGBTQIA+ Sanctuary City. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Chair Vogel, Commissioner Toft and Commissioner Podracky

Abstained: 1 - Commissioner Morlan

3. [25-350](#) 2025 Subcommittees.

Commissioner Jess Toft noted that the HRC attendance at the Pride in the Park event was successful and the included rock painting activity was very well received.

Chair Schuyler Vogel noted that the Hispanic Heritage Celebration would be held on September 13, 2025. Continuing the rock painting activity was discussed as a way to highlight the HRC in the community.

Commissioner Bruce Morlan stated that the Housing subcommittee had not met, but that the Rotary Club is working within the community to access available IRA housing funds.

4. [25-351](#) 2026 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration.

Chair Schuyler Vogel noted that the MLK celebration is the largest event the HRC leads and that planning will take place in upcoming months.

STAFF UPDATES

5. [25-352](#) Staff Report.

Spanish Translator Claudia Garcia gave an overview of the activities of the MN Human Rights Commission and provided links for further information. She also noted city services available along with a mandatory board and commission training that will be held on October 28, 2025.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Jess Toft, seconded by Commissioner Bruce Morlan, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.