



# City of Northfield

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final Human Rights Commission

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Wednesday, February 28, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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

Chair Wale called the meeting to order at 5:56 p.m.

**Present:** 7 - Commissioner Glenda Orrego, Commissioner Veronica Gamino, Commissioner Bruce Morlan, Commissioner Barb Wornson, Adam Wale, Commissioner Schuyler Vogel and Commissioner Brisa Zubia

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Aidyn Plasch

*Also present: Claudia Garcia, Staff Liaison and Spanish Interpreter; Matt Bailey, Meeting Associate; Rhianna Gonzalez, Youth Representative (non-voting)*

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

**Yes:** 7 - Commissioner Orrego, Commissioner Gamino, Commissioner Morlan, Commissioner Wornson, Chair Wale, Commissioner Vogel and Commissioner Zubia

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [24-160](#) January 24, 2024 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Gamino, seconded by Commissioner Zubia, to approve the January 24, 2024 HRC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Yes:** 7 - Commissioner Orrego, Commissioner Gamino, Commissioner Morlan, Commissioner Wornson, Chair Wale, Commissioner Vogel and Commissioner Zubia

### PRESENTATIONS

2. [24-161](#) Police Department Update

*Police Chief Mark Elliott delivered an update on the Police Department's work in the community, detailing the new Police-Assisted Recovery & Deflection (PARAD) program. Elliott responded to questions and comments from the Commissioners.*

3. [24-162](#) City of Northfield Comprehensive Planning.

Community Development Director Jake Reilly delivered a presentation on the Comprehensive Plan and conducted an engagement exercise with the Commission. Reilly responded to questions and comments from the Commissioners.

Members of the public addressed the HRC: On behalf of the longtime residents and members of the community who are first- and second-generation immigrants, Lucy Gonzalez Miron spoke favorably on the Comprehensive Plan and in favor of increased tourism, increased centralized and public venues for the arts, and increased work opportunities for everyone within the city. Joaquina Vazquez thanked the Commission and City Staff for including her community in the Comprehensive Plan process. Ruby Baez, a resident of Northfield for almost twenty years, spoke in favor of increased work opportunities and thanked the Commission and the City Staff for including her community in the planning process. Araza Libortiz spoke in favor of increased work opportunities, better transportation between Northfield and other cities, and more stores in town.

**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lucy Gonzalez Miron asked the HRC to take into consideration increased work and housing opportunities for the community, especially for younger people.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

- 4. [24-163](#) 2024 Board and Commission Onboarding and Refresher.

In the interest of time, Chair Vogel and Staff Liaison Claudia Garcia asked the Commissioners to complete the onboarding process outside the meeting.

- 5. [24-164](#) Election of Human Rights Commission Officers of Vice-Chair and Secretary.

Chair Wale reviewed the previous nominations and elections for office that had taken place. Commissioner Wornson had previously nominated Commissioner Gamino for Vice-Chair. Gamino accepted the nomination and was unanimously approved. Commissioner Vogel nominated himself for Secretary. Commissioner Morlan seconded his nomination, and Vogel was unanimously approved as Secretary.

- 6. [24-165](#) Solidify Human Rights Commission Meetings for 2024.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Wornson, seconded by Commissioner Vogel, to approve holding the November HRC meeting on Monday, November 18, 2024 and the December HRC meeting on Monday, December 16, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Commissioner Orrego, Commissioner Gamino, Commissioner Morlan, Commissioner Wornson, Chair Wale, Commissioner Vogel and Commissioner Zubia

- 7. [24-166](#) 2024 Subcommittees.

The HRC discussed its existing subcommittees. Regarding the events subcommittees, the MLK Celebration and International Day of Peace subcommittees had sufficient volunteers, but the Pride in the Park and Hispanic Heritage Celebration subcommittees each needed one additional volunteer. Commissioners Vogel (dependent on availability) and Orrego both volunteered for the former, and Commissioner Gamino volunteered for the latter. The formation of additional subcommittees will be discussed at the March

*2024 HRC meeting.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Wornson, seconded by Commissioner Vogel, at 8:07 p.m. to extend the meeting another 15 minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:**

## **STAFF UPDATES**

8. [24-167](#) Staff Report.

*Staff Liaison Claudia Garcia presented updates from City Staff.*

## **BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

*No reports from Commissioners were received.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Wornson, seconded by Commissioner Gamino, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 7 - Commissioner Orrego, Commissioner Gamino, Commissioner Morlan, Commissioner Wornson, Chair Wale, Commissioner Vogel and Commissioner Zubia