



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Human Rights Commission

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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

Chair Wale called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: 4 - Glenda Orrego, Jennie Autonoe, Ana George and Adam Wale

Absent: 3 - Veronica Gamino, Bruce Morlan and Barb Wornson

ALSO PRESENT

Youth Representative: Aidyn Plasch; Tom Baraniak; Ben Martig, City Administrator; Judy Becker, Meeting Associate

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Youth Representative George, second by Commissioner Orrego, to approve the Meeting Agenda. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Orrego, Autonoe, George and Wale

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [23-1097](#) March 22, 2023 HRC Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [1 - HRC Minutes.03.22.2023](#)

Motion by Youth Representative George, second by Commissioner Orrego, to approve the Minutes of the March 22, 2023 Meeting. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Orrego, Autonoe, George and Wale

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REGULAR AGENDA

2. [23-1098](#) Discussion about member roles and appointment process in boards and committees.

Attachments: [1 - Mar Valdecantos Letter November 2022](#)

City Administrator Martig introduced this item, giving background information and indicating that Meleah Follen, Healthy Community Initiative Youth Engagement and

Northfield Community College Collaborative Director, and Mar Valdecantos, former member of the HRC, will speak to this item.

Mar Valdecantos discussed the attached document, dated November 21, 2022, they prepared for the City Council and the Northfield Human Rights Commission on voting rights for youth and adult members on boards and commissions and the recruitment process for boards and commissions.

Maleah Follen, who recruits youth members for boards and commissions through HCI, discussed reasons why not all youth are voting members, relating in particular to the impact on quorums, and further discussed the training youth members are given for active participation on boards and commissions.

Martig discussed statutory requirements and restrictions for youth voting and further discussed Charter City vs. Statutory City and requirements of the City Charter. Martig indicated various actions the HRC could take regarding this issue, including inviting the Mayor to attend the next meeting. In addition, the City Council continues to update the governance of City boards and commissions.

Commission members provided their perspectives on these issues. Valdecantos, Follen and Martig addressed comments and questions from commission members.

Motion by Commissioner Autonoe, second by Youth Representative George, to continue discussion of this item at the next meeting and to request that Mayor Pownell attend to provide additional information. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Orrego, Autonoe, George and Wale

3. [23-1099](#) Staff Report.

Attachments: [1 - Board and Commission Rules of Business FINAL Council Approved Version 04-04-23](#)
[2 - 02-10-22 HRC Request Seeking Partnership with Native Communities](#)

City Administrator Martig introduced the staff report. Of particular note:

** At their April 4 meeting, the City Council approved a newly created Board and Commission Rules of Business (attachment 1). This file has been added to all board and commission webpages. All boards and commissions are expected to follow these rules going forward.*

** Update on February 10, 2022 Human Rights Commission request for the City to partner with native communities. Multiple staff members are currently working on this item and it is tentatively planned to be on a City Council agenda in June. The February staff report, draft letter to be sent from the City, and meeting minutes are attached (attachment 2). Former HRC member, Mar Valdecantos has also been involved in this process.*

** For updates from the MN Department of Human Rights, subscribe at <https://mn.gov/mdhr/about/>*

** Training for Localist (Community Events Calendar), (northfieldmn.gov) <<https://events.northfieldmn.gov/>>, May 2nd, 6:00-6:30 in English; 6:30-7:00 in Spanish.*

** Pride in the Park, Saturday, June 3rd*

** Hispanic Heritage Celebration, Saturday, September 16th; consider people to nominate as noteworthy Hispanic leaders in the community.*

** Board and Commission Training, Tuesday, October 24th; attendance required.*

** Holiday Social, Tuesday, December 12th, 5:00 p.m.; attendance required.*

- * *Economic Development: Main Street Grant.*
- * *Growing Local: Northfield Emerging Leaders Program.*
- * *El Super Barrio Latino, KYMN Radio.*
- * *Northfield Public Broadcasting Charter and Spectrum Channels 180 & 187.*

REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS AND CHAIR

Chair Wale suggested that all subcommittees report on any action taken at each meeting.

City Administrator will have Staff Liaison Garcia email HRC members as to any information she has on recent subcommittee actions.

Chair Wale indicated he is willing to assist with subcommittees if needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Orrego, second by Commissioner Autonoe, to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Orrego, Autonoe, George and Wale