



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Human Rights Commission

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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

Chair Wale called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Introductions were made.

Present: 7 - Commissioner Glenda Orrego, Commissioner Bruce Morlan, Commissioner Barb Wornson, Commissioner Adam Wale, Commissioner Rihanna Gonzalez, Commissioner Schuyler Vogel and Commissioner Brisa Zubia

Absent: 3 - Commissioner Veronica Gamino, Commissioner Aidyn Plasch and Commissioner Martin Rosas

ALSO PRESENT

Commissioner Alec Vatter; Claudia Garcia, Staff Liaison; Judy Becker, Meeting Associate

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yes: 7 - Commissioner Orrego, Commissioner Morlan, Commissioner Wornson, Commissioner Wale, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Vogel and Commissioner Zubia

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [24-075](#) October 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Wornson, second by Commissioner Orrego, to approve the October 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Commissioner Orrego, Commissioner Morlan, Commissioner Wornson, Commissioner Wale, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Vogel and Commissioner Zubia

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. [24-076](#) 2024 Board and Commission Onboarding and Refresher.

Staff Liaison Garcia reviewed this information.

3. [24-077](#) Election of Human Rights Commission Officers of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary.

Chair Wale announced that nominations for the position of Chair are open.

Nominee(s): Commissioner Wale. All in favor to elect Wale as Chair. Wale accepted the position of Chair for 2024.

Chair Wale announced that nominations for the position of Vice-Chair are open.

Nominee(s): Commissioner Gamino. As Gamino was not present, it was suggested that nominations for Vice-Chair and Secretary be tabled.

Motion by Commissioner Morlan, second by Commissioner Wornson, to table elections of HRC Officers for Vice-Chair and Secretary until the next meeting.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Commissioner Orrego, Commissioner Morlan, Commissioner Wornson, Commissioner Wale, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Vogel and Commissioner Zubia

4. [24-078](#) Solidify HRC Agenda Meetings for 2024.

Garcia provided a list of 2024 HRC meetings, as well as other required functions:

Meetings: Feb 28; Mar 27; Apr 24; May 22; June 26; July 24; Aug 28; Sep 25; Oct 23; Nov 27 (Thanksgiving Nov 28th); Dec 25 (Christmas)

Other Required Functions:

** March 19, 2024 - State of the City Address*

** October 22, 2024 - Boards & Commission Training*

** December 10, 2024 - Holiday Social*

Garcia indicated March, October meetings can be canceled due to additional meetings; due to Holidays, members can vote for different dates for November, December meetings when Council Chambers are available.

Motion by Commissioner Wornson, second by Commissioner Orrego, to keep March, October dates and direct staff to provide alternative dates for November, December for the next meeting. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Commissioner Orrego, Commissioner Morlan, Commissioner Wornson, Commissioner Wale, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Vogel and Commissioner Zubia

5. [24-079](#) 2024 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration.

Members discussed this year's event. Commissioner Wornson requested the event be publicized earlier and more publicity be created and distributed; the subcommittee could assist with this. Commissioner Zubia suggested voting in October for the recipient of the Human Rights Award. Garcia will post the request for nominations for the Award in February 2024 for the 2025 event, closing nominations in June, in order to choose a nominee, get their acceptance of the award, and to allow for program planning by December. Commissioner Wornson would like the subcommittee to send a thank you note to all who participated in this event.

Motion by Commissioner Wornson, second by Commissioner Vogel, to direct the current subcommittee of the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, along with other interested HRC members, to draft a document of the format of the recent event, including items discussed in this meeting. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Commissioner Orrego, Commissioner Morlan, Commissioner Wornson, Commissioner Wale, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Vogel and Commissioner Zubia

6. [24-080](#) 2024 Human Rights Commission Work Plan.

Chair Wale presented a chart of areas in which the Human Rights Commission can interface. Annual presentations to the HRC include the Superintendent of Schools, the Chief of Police, the MN Department of Human Rights, representatives from city departments and state legislative representatives. Wale encouraged HRC members to suggest action items for 2024.

HRC members can opt to subscribe for e-mail updates with the MN Department of Human Rights through the following link: <https://mn.gov/mdhr/about/>. This site also lists other Human Rights Commissions in Minnesota, with contact information for each. In addition, the HRC can request speakers from the MNDHR for events.

Motion by Commissioner Wornson, second by Commissioner Zubia, to move the selection of subcommittee members to the February meeting.

Commissioner Morlan stated subcommittee selections should be made tonight, to allow for better preparation for events.

Commissioner Wornson amended the motion to consider subcommittee assignments now and move discussion of the HRC work plan to the February meeting, second by Commissioner Morlan. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Commissioner Orrego, Commissioner Morlan, Commissioner Wornson, Commissioner Wale, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Vogel and Commissioner Zubia

7. [24-081](#) 2024 Subcommittees.

Garcia is preparing a document of expectations for the Staff Liaison and each program subcommittee.

- * Pride in the Park (June 1, 2024)*
 - * Wale; Wornson*
- * Community Picnic (TBD)*
- * Hispanic Heritage Celebration (September 14, 2024)*
 - * Gonzalez, Morlan, Orrego, Zubia*
- * International Day of Peace (September 21, 2024)*
 - * Morlan (Rotary), Vogel (Carleton), Wale, Zubia (St. Olaf)*
- * Martin Luther King Day (January 20, 2025)*
 - * Orrego, Vogel, Wornson, Zubia*

Commissioner Zubia stated the Community Picnic may not be the best forum for the HRC and those resources could be put into other events. Commissioner Vogel indicated agreement. Motion followed.

Garcia indicated the HRC has a table cover and tote bags for events; they will provide budget information at the next meeting. Print materials can be requested from the MN DHR and the City. Members can sign up online to assist at any of these events.

Motion by Commissioner Wornson, second by Commissioner Morlan, to discontinue the Community Picnic. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Commissioner Orrego, Commissioner Morlan, Commissioner Wornson, Commissioner Wale, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Vogel and Commissioner Zubia

STAFF UPDATES

8. [24-082](#) Staff Report.

Staff Liaison Garcia reviewed items listed in their staff report.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

9. [24-083](#) Commissioner Report

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Wornson, seconded by Commissioner Orrego, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Commissioner Orrego, Commissioner Morlan, Commissioner Wornson, Commissioner Wale, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Vogel and Commissioner Zubia