



# City of Northfield

City Hall  
801 Washington Street  
Northfield, MN 55057  
ci.northfield.mn.us

## Meeting Minutes - Draft Human Rights Commission

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Tuesday, November 9, 2021

6:00 PM

Police Department Training Room

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

Chair Wornson called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

**Present:** 6 - Veronica Gamino, Linda Larson, Mar Valdecantos, Barb Wornson, Bruce Morlan and Matthew Lovick

**Absent:** 3 - Jennie Eubank, Nina Mattson and Ella Mayer

### ALSO PRESENT

*Advisory Members Abdullahai Abdullahai, Lucy Gonzalez Miron; Youth Representatives Ana George, Leaf Pennock; Tom Baraniak, School Board Representative; Beth Kallestad, Staff Liaison; Judy Becker, Meeting Associate*

### ABSENT

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Gamino, second by Commissioner Lovick, to approve the November 9, 2021 Meeting Agenda. Motion carried by the following vote:

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [21-619](#) October 14, 2021 HRC Meeting Minutes

**Attachments:** [10-14-2021 HRC Meeting Minutes](#)

Motion by Commissioner Larson, second by Commissioner Gamino, to approve the Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2021 as written. Motion carried by the following vote:

**Yes:** 6 - Gamino, Larson, Valdecantos, Wornson, Morlan and Lovick

**Not Present:** 1 - Mattson

### PUBLIC COMMENT

*None*

### PRESENTATIONS

2. [21-620](#) Presentation about the Northfield Racial & Ethnic Equity Collaborative

*Kallestad gave a PowerPoint presentation of November 2021 on the Northfield Racial &*

*Ethnic Equity Collaborative, which was established in February 2021 as a Community-led effort around racial equity and inclusion. The Collaborative strives to help:*

- \* Build our shared cultural competence,*
- \* Understand our biases,*
- \* Carry out the work of systems change to begin shifting policies, practices, resources and power structures.*

*To date there are around twenty member institutions and organizations. Other entities are welcome to participate. The presentation highlighted actions being taken in the following key focus areas:*

- \* Housing,*
- \* Employment/workforce,*
- \* Building awareness in the community*

*Kallestad presented an information piece to be distributed around the community to request that individuals and businesses complete a short, anonymous survey about their views of the issues of race and equity in the Northfield community.*

## OLD BUSINESS

### 3. [21-621](#) MLK Celebration

**Attachments:** [1 - MLK Program 2020 DRAFT](#)

*Advisory Commission Member Abdullahai Abdullahai arrived at 6:25 PM.*

*The subcommittee for the Martin Luther King (MLK) celebration includes Commissioners Eubank, Valdecontos and Wornson and Advisory Members Abdullahai and Gonzalez Miron.*

*The Subcommittee will bring a proposal back to the HRC at the December meeting, to include the following:*

- \* Theme*
- \* Speaker ideas*
- \* Online/In-person, wait to decide?*
- \* Any other general thoughts/suggestions*

### 4. [21-622](#) Human Rights Award

**Attachments:** [1 - Submittal for 2022 Human Rights Award 1](#)  
[2 - Submittal for 2022 Human Rights Award 2](#)

*The annual Human Rights Award was established to grant recognition to an area individual, group or organization that has contributed to the advancement of human rights in Northfield.*

*HRC members reviewed the nominations for the 2021 Human Rights Award, which will be presented in January 2022 as part of the MLK Celebration.*

**Motion by Commissioner Larson, second by Commissioner Gamino, to grant the Human Rights Award to Matt Hillmann, Superintendent of Northfield Public Schools. Motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Gamino, Larson, Valdecantos, Wornson, Morlan and Lovick

**Not Present:** 1 - Mattson

5. [21-623](#) Beyond the Land Acknowledgement Committee Update

*Commissioner Valdecantos provided an update of the community committee working on the Beyond the Land Acknowledgement statement.*

## NEW BUSINESS

## COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

*Commissioner Valdecantos mentioned that the Shakopee Mdewakanton Community is having a special event on Saturday November 13th from 1-4 PM at their special museum, Hočokata Ti!, for learning about their history and culture, including several events and activities. This is an opportunity to learn about the Mdewakanton, the Dwellers of the Spirit Lake. Kallestad will be attending; contact her if you would like to carpool.*

*Commissioner Larson provided an update on the work of the subcommittee for the Conversion Therapy Ban.*

*Advisory Member Miron advised of the passing of the 2017 Human Rights Award recipient, Father Dempsey, formerly of St. Dominic's Church.*

*Youth Representative George gave an update on the continued efforts of the Northfield High School Environmental Club.*

## STAFF UPDATES

6. [21-624](#) Staff Report

*Kallestad reviewed the staff report as included in the Agenda Packet, File #21-624.*

## ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Commissioner Larson, second by Commissioner Gamino, to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 PM. Motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Gamino, Larson, Valdecantos, Wornson, Morlan and Lovick

**Not Present:** 1 - Mattson