



Northfield Human Rights Commission  
MEETING MINUTES RECORD

**DRAFT**

**Meeting:** Human Rights Commission

**Date:** March 14, 2019      **Location:** City Hall      **Start Time:** 6 PM      **Adjourn Time:** 8:44 PM

**Members present:** Mar Valdecantos, Justin London, Angelique Dietz, Larry Fowler, Lucy Gonzales Miron, Shafqat Igbal, Richard DeBeau, Jill Watson, Freweyni Kaleab, , Joan Hepburn, Isaac Riggins—Youth Commissioner, Keara Cooney—Youth Commissioner,

**Members Absent:** Jill Watson, Freweyni Kaleab, Rigoberto Lazaro, Enrique Reye Doominguez, Lisa Moore, Keara Cooney (youth), Chloe Thomas-Green (youth)

**Liaison Present:** Ben Martig—City Administrator, Clarice Grabau – City Council Member, Tom Baraniak – Northfield School Board

**Liaison Absent:** None.

**Others present:** Rebecca Lucero, MN Department of Human Rights Commissioner; Taylor Putz, MN Department of Human Rights; Beth Kallestad, U of MN Extension Educator; Betsey Buckheit, Northfield Planning Committee, Dorothea Hrossowyc re. Indigenous Peoples Day. Members of the community: Claudia Lange (interpreter), Reyna Lezama, Juanita Gonzalez, Beatriz Quiroz, Humberto Gonzalez, Kathryn Lozado, Olivia Frey, Gabriel Lazaro, Jose Luis Luna, Berenice Tello Amador, Marisol Arenas Apanco, Luis Rivera, Domingo Corona Carmona, Martha Amores Mendez, Guillermo Calderón-García. St Olaf student observer: Dylan Boorsma Bergerud

Item	Discussion/Conclusions	Action
Call to Order	Roll call and introduction	A roll call was taken of members present and a quorum was present.
Approval of Agenda	Review –Planning Commission report will be presented before the UM Extension training program.	The agenda was approved as amended.
Open Microphone for Residents' to Express Concerns	None	
Approval of Minutes		A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Richard to approve the February minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Presentation		
Agenda		
<p># 19-763: Driving Licenses for All</p>	<p>Valdecantos introduced the 2019 legislative activity regarding Driving Licenses for All (DLA), including a report on the five meetings with various State House of Representative Committee meetings, which she and other Northfielders have attended. Handouts were provided as informational materials with the agenda packet.</p> <p>Rebecca Lucero, MN Department of Human Rights Commissioner, advocates on behalf of the Governor Waltz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan for the DLA legislation. She has testified at the hearings with various House committees. There is optimism about a vote on the issue in the House but not in the Senate where the bill has not been introduced yet (as of March 14).</p> <p>Commissioner Fowler inquired how does this relate to the City ID. Response was it is still useful for non-drivers in communities with City IDs. Commissioner Iqbal asked what documentation will be needed. Response is that a social security number is not required. Commissioner Miron commented that driving is a right not a privilege enabling access to work, schools and services.</p> <p>Valdecantos updated that ISAIAH organization will meet on April 7 meeting with Senator Draheim at St. Dominic's at 1:45 p.m. (after Spanish Mass).</p> <p>Lucero followed her presentation with a personal introduction and overview of her goals at the MN Department of Human Resources.</p>	<p>DeBeau moves to pass a resolution in support of Driving Licenses for All. Fowler seconded. The HRC unanimously passed a resolution in support of the Driving Licenses for All.</p>

<p>#19-765 Accessory Dwelling Units presentation</p>	<p>Her goal is to bring the law and justice together, and work on healing within the community. Disability (1), race (2), and sex (3) are the 3 highest discrimination cases brought to the Dept. Lucero and her department intend to work pro-actively on enforcement, education, compliance, legislation as well as on trainings offers throughout the state for which there is a lot of demand. Her agenda in three words: change the world.</p> <p>Betsey Buckheit: Northfield Planning Commission presentation on ADUs and Equitable Street Design. Handouts were provided with the agenda materials for reference.</p> <p>ADUs are just one tool to add living spaces to address the demand for affordable housing in Northfield. Explanation of the zoning and rental ordinances that are currently in place and prohibit the construction of ADUs in much of Northfield. ADUs are not necessarily, but likely to be more affordable (do not require major new infrastructure projects, will be small, will be new and thus more energy efficient). It is a flexible tool that can be added to the toolbox of housing options in Nfld. For the ADUs to be successfully the Planning Commission strongly recommends flexibility in policies and descriptions, citing the differences in experiences in St. Paul and Minneapolis.</p> <p>Buckheit then gave an introduction to the Planning Commission's evolving thoughts on Equitable Street Design planning. There is grave inequity in accessibility to the services (including education) in Northfield, and future intentional street planning and repairs as more than just a technical way to "fix" the roads, can start remedying the currently existing inequity issues. The Planning Commission urges to look at street "projects" as an issue of public right-of-way to increase connectivity throughout the community. The communities most inadvertently affected by current</p>	
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<p>#19-764 Training of under-represented groups regarding serving on commissions, boards and councils.</p>	<p>inequitable connectivity are Viking Terrace and Florelas Park at the northern end of town.</p> <p>Lively conversation followed on this issue. Buckheit encouraged collaboration between HRC, HRC and the Planning Commission.</p> <p>Martig introduced the item that the the HRC strategic priority area and City Council strategic plan have aligned goals of increasing racial diversity to better reflect our community. He has been exploring one option of an action strategy to increase this goal by exploring a partnership with the U of MN Extension service on a program that they are looking at adding in Southeast Greater Minnesota.</p> <p>Beth Kallestad with the University of Minnesota Extension Service elaborated on the submitted draft for a training program that would assist in preparing underrepresented groups for participation in boards, commissions and the Council, and then requested reactions and input.</p> <p>Commissioner Valdecantos mentioned that a similar training program is currently undertaken by Neighbors United, funded by a grant. Issues like bringing it to the people, child care, language, timing were all discussed. Commissioner DeBeau mentioned the importance of assigning mentors. With regards to a location for such training in Nfld, Joan referred to the black church tradition of bringing people to a location they already frequent, which would be St. Dominic's in Nfld. Other suggestions were to offer childcare (by 3<sup>rd</sup> party) during the training, and since the training will be provided in English a glossary of frequently used vocabulary in this context.</p> <p>This will be further explored for potential future consideration.</p>	
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#19-766	<p>Dorothea Hrossowyc joined the conversation on how to move forward with the City's intent to recognize that Northfield is located on land once occupied by indigenous peoples. Clarice Grabau: Both Colleges will collaborate with the City to come to a good understanding of indigenous land use or ownership in our area through archival research.</p> <p>Clarice called for putting a committee together with members of the colleges, the city, and others from the community and looks for HRC members on the Committee. Mar Valdecantos and Larry Fowler agreed to join such a committee. It was suggested to make sure to reach out to native Americans living in Northfield, independent of tribal affiliation to those tribes who lived in this area.</p>	<p>Create a committee to work on this: HRC members to join this committee: Larry Fowler, Mar Valdecantos.</p>
<b>Reports From Commission Members</b>		
	<p>Valdecantos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Dylan, St. Olaf student, will follow the work of the commission as an ACE component for his class.</li> <li>* Valdecantos and Dietz serve on the Complete Count Committee, charged with getting Northfield ready for the 2020 census.</li> <li>* EDA, Economic Development Authority is exploring a service contract related to goals of focusing on minority business entrepreneurship in Northfield.</li> <li>* Valdecantos and Dietz presented the City ID to the St. Olaf Student Government Association and assisted Library Staff with the on-campus application process on March 7.</li> </ul> <p>Dietz: St. Olaf Climate Justice Coalition is looking for connecting with the HRC. Richard volunteered to be that liaison.</p> <p>Fowler: Shared materials on the history of Northfield, which will be distributed by Richard to the Commission.</p>	

<b>Report From Liaisons</b>		
	<p>Martig:</p> <p>*Reminder to attend the State of the City address on Monday, February 18, Weitz Center.</p> <p>*City has hired a project coordinator to work on the Strategic Plan, and a Communication Specialist who will assist with publicity for HRC sponsored events. These appointments will be made public soon.</p>	
<b>Adjourn</b>		
Adjourn the meeting		<p>A motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Dietz to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 PM.</p> <p>Motion passed.</p>
	Thursday, March 14, 2019, at 7:00, in City Hall	

Submitted by: Angelique Dietz, HRC Secretary