



## Northfield Human Rights Commission MEETING MINUTES RECORD

**DRAFT**

**Meeting:** Human Rights Commission

**Date:** January 9, 2020    **Location:** City Hall    **Start Time:** 6 PM    **Adjourn Time:** 8:15 PM

**Members present:** Mar Valdecantos, Angelique Dietz, Linda Larson, Barb Wornson, Jonathan Woodyard, Veronica Gamino, Rigoberto Lazaro, Youth members: Esperanza Carrera Murga, Chloe Thomas-Green

**Members Absent:** Nina Mattson, Lucy Miron, Larry Fowler, Grant Bouvin, Anna Dwyer

**Liaison Present:** Clarice Grabau (City Council Liaison), Tom Baraniak (School Board Liaison), Beth Kallestad (City Administration Liaison)

**Liaison Absent:**

**Others present:** Matt Hillmann, Northfield School District Superintendent (guest presentation), Olivia Frey, Lina Nyaronge,

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	The agenda was approved as presented, amended by Beth to add information on Code of Ethics sheet.
Public Comment	Olivia Frey and Lina Nyaronge, community members, reported an incident of removing of Nina's grandchildren by the Northfield Police Department on behalf of the Rice County Social Service Department. They have filed complaints with the appropriate authorities and HRC members have been instructed that discussion of the information we received is prohibited as there is a legal case in process with the City. Olivia and Nina came to inform the HRC on the events. HRC members can discuss the case with the City Administrator, Ben Martig.	
<b>Presentation</b>		
20-016: Matt Hillman, Superintendent Northfield Schools; Guest Presentation	Matt started off by telling the HRC that he was drawn to Northfield because of its reputation as an open and welcoming community to people of all backgrounds. Once on the job, he started to distinguish between the public image and the reality on the ground, as it effects the community of the School District where both students and staff experience incidents of racial discrimination on an ongoing basis. In	



Item	Discussion/Conclusions	Action
<b>Reports From Commission Members</b>		
	<p>Beth: needs to track data with regard to racial diversity on Boards &amp; Commission. Please fill out the equal opportunity form to assist with this data collection.</p> <p>Barb: Northfield currently does not have a buy-back program of guns that people would like to dispose of. Should Northfield have a buyback/drop off programs for guns? It was decided that this would be a good topic to bring up during our meeting with Chief Nelson next month.</p> <p>Chloe: Black Student Union is focusing on developing a survey for black students, to hear more voices. Panels in February.</p> <p>Mar: HRC and Art and Culture Commission work on Land Acknowledgement project to recognize the Dakota people who lived here before Europeans arrived. She strongly recommends that we all visit the exhibits at Hokokata ti, the Dakota cultural center in Shakopee.  <a href="https://shakopeedakota.org/culture/hocokatati/">https://shakopeedakota.org/culture/hocokatati/</a></p> <p>Beth: There will be a group photo taken in February .</p> <p>March 11: Chair and Vice-Chair training at City Hall on conducting effective meetings: 6-8 pm.</p>	
<b>Report From Liaisons</b>		
<b>Adjourn</b>		
Adjourn the meeting		<p>A motion was made by Jonathan and seconded by Linda to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM.  Motion passed.</p>

Submitted by: Angelique Dietz , HRC Secretary