



Northfield Human Rights Commission MEETING MINUTES RECORD

DRAFT

Meeting: Human Rights Commission

Date: September 10, 2020 **Location:** Online -Go To Meeting **Start Time:** 6 PM **Adjourn Time:** 8:00 PM

Members present: Mar Valdecantos, Linda Larson, Barbara Wornson, Larry Fowler, Nina Mattson, Veronica Gamino, Jonathon Woodyard

Youth/Student Representatives present –Joseph Ascencio Bravo, Ella Mayer, Leaf Pennock, Grant Bouvin (voting)

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

Members absent: Rigoberto Lazaro, Lucy Miron (non-voting advisory member),

Liaison absent:

Others present: Ana Kircher (Intern serving with Beth Kallestad)

Item	Discussion/Conclusions	Action
Call to Order	Roll call and introduction *Barbara Wornson reminded attendees: How to provide public input & watch meeting during pandemic	Barbara Wornson called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. Agenda was approved. A roll call was taken of members present and a quorum was confirmed.
Approval of Minutes August 13, 2020	Review	Motion: Jonathon Woodyard Second: Larry Fowler The August minutes were approved as written
Public Comment	Kallestad introduced Ana Kircher as a student intern from U of M Morris.	Ana will be helping with education/storytelling and relationship building around Land Acknowledgement Statement.
Old Business		
Land Acknowledgement Statement	The HRC is planning a community presentation that will be hosted as an event through the Northfield Public Library on September 23, 2020 from 6:30-7:30 pm. Professor Meredith McCoy will provide a presentation on the Land Acknowledgement Statement. HRC Members will take questions. The Statement is just the beginning of the work involved to open communication and increasing the history of The Dakota People in Northfield.	Mar Valdecantos will introduce Meredith McCoy at this event. Event was published on Northfield Public Library website and registration is required. Staff will assist with communications. HRC members encouraged to share with their networks. HRC will bring forward a resolution requesting adoption of the Land Acknowledgment Statement at the October 6, 2020 City Council Meeting
Indigenous People's Day Event Planning	Review of plans to create a plaque to acknowledge the original name of the Cannon River that was given by the Wahpekute Band of the Dakota Nation as	Small group from HRC (Nina Mattson, Larry Fowler, Mar Valdecantos, Barbara Wornson and Ella Mayer) plan to meet soon to plan this event. Ana Kircher will also participate in this work.

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Indigenous People's Day Event Planning, cont.	<p>Standing Rock River. Discussed plan for a ceremony to present the plaque and invite Native People to do a blessing of the river. For the past 2 years Northfield has been celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day instead of Columbus Day in October. That practice will continue this year, the second Monday of October.</p> <p>Clarice Grabau and Mar Valdecantos have both visited the Northfield Historical Society to see the new exhibit of the Dakota Peoples in Northfield. Encouraged others to see the exhibit and thank the Historical Society for the beginning work on this exhibit and let them know how important it is to continue and build on this history.</p>	Barbara Wornson will send a letter of thanks and appreciation for the start of this exhibit.
Human Rights Award for 2021	Discussed process for seeking nominations for this award to be presented at the MLK event in January 2021.	Nominations are open and will need to be submitted by the end of October and will be reviewed at the HRC November meeting. HRC members can and are encouraged to submit nominations however HRC members can not be nominated for this award. Information and forms are printed in both English and Spanish.
Najwa Picnic	Brief discussion about timing of this event as has been previously discussed. It may be best to have the submission of photos of groups having meals together around the Thanksgiving Holiday. Ana Kircher will look into the creation of an educational opportunity about Thanksgiving Meaning and Tradition.	
New Business		
Future Topics	<p>Discussion about future topics that HRC may want to address in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Day of Peace Celebration • Affordable Housing in Northfield and the concerns of inadequate housing with poor living conditions • Black Lives Matter • Racial Justice in Northfield with major focus in the school system - NEED ACTION • Learn respectful ways to talk through these big issues, Lean in to the culture with love and grace • Feeling safe. Listen and Hear each other • Recommend group to work with: Braver Angels School systems 	

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	<p>enhancing curriculum of true and accurate history</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues with Racism in community gets into the school system • Opinions vs Morality. Challenge of right and wrong • Isolation and Mental Illness during Covid-19 especially with winter coming • Safe ways to participate. Be open to different means of communication. Increased passion on a topic may be spoken in a louder voice. • Include oral history and story telling as valid history. Written history is not the only valid history • Mural at Just Food – interest in contacting Black and Indigenous People Artists to help with project • LGBTQ celebration- How to celebrate PRIDE • Housing Cares Act – Help people behind on rent • Anything at CAC that we can help with? 	
Reports from Commission Members		
None		
Report from Liaisons		
None		
Adjourn		
Adjourn the meeting		<p>A motion was made by Larry Fowler and seconded by Jonathon Woodyard to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM.</p> <p>Motion passed.</p>

Next Meeting: Thursday October 8, 2020
Submitted by Linda Larson, HRC Secretary