



DRAFT

Northfield Human Rights Commission MEETING MINUTES RECORD

Meeting: Human Rights Commission

Date: December 10, 2020 **Location:** Online -Go To Meeting **Start Time:** 6:13 PM **Adjourn Time:** 8:12 PM

Members present: ☒ Mar Valdecantos, ☒ Linda Larson, ☒ Barbara Wornson, ☒ Larry Fowler, ☒ Nina Mattson, ☒ Veronica Gamino, Jonathon Woodyard, Rigoberto Lazaro, Lucy Miron (non-voting advisory member)

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)

Others present: ☒ Ana Kircher (Intern serving with Beth Kallestad), ☒ Bruce W. Moran (Braver Angels), ☒ Dorothea Hrossowyc, ☒ Joan Hepburn

Item	Discussion/Conclusions	Action
Call to Order	Roll call and introduction	Barbara Wornson called the meeting to order at 6:13 pm. Motion to approve agenda: Veronica Gamino Second: Linda Larson Agenda was approved. A roll call was taken of members present and quorum was confirmed.
Approval of Minutes November 12, 2020	Review	Motion: Mar Valdecantos Second: Linda Larson The Nov minutes approved as written
Public Comment	NONE	
Presentations		
Presentation by Ana Kircher	Ana Kircher, a University of Minnesota Morris student has been doing an internship with the City of Northfield this fall focusing on learning about the Dakota people in the area from history as well as present day. She will share some of her research	Ana presented both a personal story of her life and a review of life and challenges of the Dakota peoples life in and around Northfield. We heard a creation story and the importance of each of learning the stories that hold meaning for the Indigenous People. She highlighted the support of Bishop Whipple in 1862 who stood up for the Dakota People. Ana shared about the treaties that were made and were not honored and therefore land and essential items including food were taken from Dakota People. It was clear that we have much to learn about the Indigenous People who lived on and cared for this land.
Presentation on Braver Angels Conversation Approach	Bruce W Moran, a member of Braver Angels, presented their approach on depolarizing politics and uniting red and blue Americans. Web Site: braverangels.org	The main points we learned 1. As individuals, we try to understand the other side's point of view, even if we do not agree with it. . 2. In our communities, we engage those we disagree with, looking for common ground and ways to work together. 3. In politics, we support principles that bring us together rather than divide us. We are invited to check out the website and consider workshop training opportunities.

Item	Discussion/Conclusions	Action
Unfinished Business		
Update on Land Acknowledgement Statement and Community Education	The Human Rights Commission receives an update on Land Acknowledgement Statement adoption and Community Education efforts.	On November 17, 2020 the Northfield City Council adopted the Land Acknowledgement statement, as recommended by the HRC. The City has created a page on its website with this statement and resources for people to learn more. The word has been spreading throughout the community. Other groups are now looking at creating their own statements. Sam Temple will be at HRC mtg in January to discuss opportunities for further education using the book, "Mni Sota Makoce The Land of the Dakota" by Gwen Westerman and Bruce White. The importance of hearing the stories directly from Indigenous people is an important goal of this work going forward.
Human Rights Award	The HRC will review nominations for the Human Rights Award	Further discussion on the three nominees and the great work and value of each person/group. The final vote for the Human Rights Award goes to Rahmah Abdulai nominated by Sarah Swan McDonald. All three nominees will be recognized at the MLK Celebration.
MLK Celebration	The HRC receives an update from the subcommittee on MLK Celebration planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An online event on January 18, 2021 at 7 PM using the City Zoom account. · • Theme for 2021 - In This Together · • Keep flow/agenda format from the past • \Welcome/Emcee -Looking for volunteer Welcome - Mayor Pownell - include land acknowledgement statement · • Recognition for BLM/Say Their Names (here or another place in agenda) • Human Rights Award - HRC Chair Barb Wornson presents and also share information about each of the 3 nominees as way to highlight their work • Main Speaker - invite Nancy Antoine, Principal from Bridgewater Elementary. Veronica waiting to confirm. • Select 3-5 people to share short reflection (2-3 min each) of their work and any inspiration/tie in to MLK • Closing Song - We Shall Overcome soundtrack with slide show video of pictures from the community • Beth will send award info through communications • Small group will meet again early January for firm up plan. Add Larry to group • Recommendation to add someone singing the song, "Glory" representing Selma
The HRC will review the draft summary of work in 2020	Summary Report: The City of Northfield Communications office is developing a 2020	Reviewed and accepted summary put together by Barbara Wornson

Item	Discussion/Conclusions	Action
	Annual Review for the work of Boards and Commissions	
Reports/Discussion Items		
The HRC receives updates from staff.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The staff Racial Equity Core Team received four responses to RFP for consultant to provide training on DEI topics in 2021 and 2022. Reviewing applications and will be contacting selected consultant to enter into contract. · 2. Racial Equity Core Team is starting to work on format/tool for departments to use when evaluating projects, programs and policies from and equity lens using resources we have from GARE and other examples. · 3. Staff have been in touch with Professor Maria Pabon Gautier at the Taylor Center for Equity and Inclusion at St. Olaf. We will be inviting some of the students to join our January HRC meeting to learn more about their work and ways the City's work around equity and inclusion can include them. · 4. St. Olaf J-term class on diversity (in Psych dept) will be working on gathering data to develop a Racial Equity Profile for Northfield (based on example from Montgomery County, MD). · 5. Worked with Communications office to get Land Acknowledgement Statement info on City website. · 6. Met with Mayor's Youth Council to present about Land Acknowledgement Statement (along with Ana and Clarice). · 7. Continued to meet with Ana to finish her internship project. 8. Conversation with staff from Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community after he reached out regarding developing a Climate Action Plan. This is one way of beginning to build relationships with Dakota neighbors. 	
Reports from Commission Members		
None		
Report from Liaisons		
None		
Adjourn		
Adjourn the meeting		<p>At 8:00 pm Motion by Nina Mattson to extend the meeting. Second by Mar Valdecantos. Approval made to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.</p> <p>At 8:12 pm motion was made by Linda Larson and seconded by Mar Valdecantos to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>Motion passed.</p>

Next Meeting: Thursday January 14, 2020 At this point plan for an online meeting. Beth will confirm prior to that meeting. Submitted by Linda Larson, HRC Secretary