



Northfield Human Rights Commission MEETING MINUTES RECORD

DRAFT

Meeting: Human Rights Commission

Date: February 11, 2021 **Location:** Online -Go To Meeting **Start Time:** 6 PM **Adjourn Time:** 8:00 PM

Members present: ☒Mar Valdecantos, ☒Linda Larson, ☒Barbara Wornson, ☒Nina Mattson, ☒Lucy Miron (non-voting advisory member), ☒Abdullahi Asir

Absent: Jonathon Woodyard, Veronica Gamino, Jennie Eubank

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)

Others present:

Item	Discussion/Conclusions	Action
Call to Order	Roll call and introduction of agenda.	Barbara Wornson called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm Linda Larson moved to approve the agenda. Nina Mattson second. Agenda was approved. A roll call was taken of members present and quorum was confirmed.
Public Input and Watching the Meeting during the Pandemic		Attendees asked to review: Information on How to Provide Public Input and Watch the Meeting During the Pandemic (included in Packet)
Approval of Minutes January 14, 2021	Review	Motion: Nina Mattson, Second: Linda Larson . The January minutes approved as written.
Public Comment	NONE	
Presentations		
Neighbors United	Presentation by Rice County Neighbors United Representatives (Mar Valdecantos and Lucy Miron)	. Neighbors United had been working in the Northfield area in Southern Minnesota for two years before it was founded January 31st of 2017 by Marlene Rojas, Taide Rodriguez-Marcial, Lucy González Mirón, Mar Valdecantos, Erubiel Marcial and Anthony Pahnke. https://www.neighborsunitedofnorthfield.org/home Highlights of the work that has been and is being done: Municipal ID, Housing issues, means of communication with city organizations for help and guidance for multiple needs, support to create minority owned businesses and also looking for a bank to provide mortgage loans. Provides a place for the immigrant community to be a part of the conversations and a way to empower Northfield residents through anti-racism trainings to include immigrants as valued members of Northfield.
New Business		
New Commissioner Orientation and Existing Commissioner Refresher	The Human Rights Commissioners receive an orientation to review duties and processes applicable to serving on this Commission.	Beth Kallestad facilitated the Board and Commission New Member Orientation and Refresher. Questions answered. 1) PRIOR to the HRC Meeting each member watched the Boards and Commissions Orientation Video, a short video on Robert's Rules of Order, review HRC enabling Ordinance in City Code, Bylaws, meeting agendas, roles and responsibilities. And the Board/Commission Orientation document that includes the Northfield City Council Rules of Business & Meeting Rules. Also each member is asked to complete the ONLINE form for Demographics Data for Board & Commission members and the Ethics form which needs to be notarized.

Item	Discussion/Conclusions	Action
		Encouraged to mark your calendars for the State of the City Address: March 15, 7:30 PM - online on Northfield Public Broadcasting. < https://npb.ci.northfield.mn.us/CablecastPublicSite/ > Also Submit nominations for Board & Commission Member Excellence Award by deadline of February 19 th . < https://www.ci.northfield.mn.us/1333/Excellence-Award >
The Human Rights Commission elects officers for February 2021 - January 2022	The Human Rights Commission bylaws call for election of officers to be called in February. The current officers are: Barbara Wornson, Chair Mar Valdecantos, Vice-Chair. Linda Larson, Secretary.	Voting for these three positions took place as indicated on our bylaws. The three current officers were placed into nomination with no further nominations given. Results after unanimous voting: Chair: Barbara Wornson Vice Chair: Mar Valdecantos Secretary: Linda Larson
Northfield Reads Update	The HRC receives an update on Northfield Reads event in March and discusses continuing participation	Northfield Reads is led by a group of community members in collaboration with the Northfield Public Library. It was founded by Corinne Smith, an HRC member at the time. They choose different books each year on topics relevant to the community such as racism, climate change, etc. and host a series of conversations. This year the focus is on Indigenous People. The book is An Indigenous People's History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. A virtual community discussion was held on January 21 and another is scheduled for March 4. If any current HRC members would like to participate please contact Katlin Heidgerken-Greene, Katlin.Greene@ci.northfield.mn.us at the Northfield Public Library HRC is encouraged to participate but will no longer be a sponsor of Northfield Reads.
Discussion on educational campaign	The HRC discusses if it would like to work on an educational campaign. State of MN Human Rights has resources available. See website: mn.gov/mdhr/	The HRC is asked to discuss if they would like to carry out an educational campaign in Northfield and if so to appoint a subcommittee to work with staff liaison on its development. Northfield HRC is invited to attend the quarterly meeting of all MN local commissions for networking, support and sharing information. We can bring HR concerns that are above our ability to manage to the state level. To get on mailing list for meeting notices contact: audel.shokohzadeh@state.mn.us Topics Northfield HRC discussed looking into include LGBTQ concerns, conversion therapy, Transgender bathrooms. Decision to have Beth Kallestad look into ordering bookmarks [Human Rights act and who is protected and Resources for support and reporting] to be sent out in mailings and also have available at the Library.
Unfinished Business		
NONE		
Reports/Discussion Items		
Commissioner Comments and Reports		
none		
Staff Updates and Reports		
The HRC receives updates from staff.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Olaf J-term class, Issues in Diversity (in Psychology Department) has completed a Racial Equity Profile for the City of Northfield. This was done using American Community Survey (subset of the Census) data from 2019. If you would like a copy sent to you let Beth know Staff training, Beyond Diversity 101 will take place on February 24.

Item	Discussion/Conclusions	Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City of Northfield in collaboration with Northfield Public Schools and Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) are launching an effort we are calling the Northfield Racial & Ethnic Equity Collaborative. The target audience is institutional leadership who can help with system change work. The first meeting of this group will be February 17. Call to Action-We, the system and institutional leaders of Northfield, are committed to shifting policies, practices, resources and power to improve the livelihoods of communities most impacted by systemic inequities, especially Black, Indigenous and Latinx members of our community. <p><u>What are the Desired Results?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northfield's institutions and systems act in ways that promote the collective interests and vision of an inclusive community Decisions about strategy and implementation are made with an equity approach Educational disparities and gaps by race and income close We are able to grow and attract a diverse workforce with people of color who live here We lift up the voices who are not traditionally listened to/heard by system leaders Northfield is a place where everyone is welcome and included
Report from Liaisons and HRC Members		
Tom Baraniak (School Board)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Board has selected three names that were nominated by the city of Northfield for the renaming of Sibley School. 100 comments came from Facebook. 1. Maple Hill 2. Maple Hills 3. Spring Creek. Teachers are going to be having more anti-racism classes.
Mar Valdecantos		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February is Black History Month. Najwa Picnic: The family moved away from Northfield due to not feeling comfortable here. They do not want HRC to use the name for the annual picnic any longer. Suggestion to call the picnic "Festival of Nations Picnic". Land by Greenvale park is being sold and plans to build apartment building are in process. Neighbors are not happy about this decision. The city is working to create more affordable housing
Adjourn		
Adjourn the meeting		Motion to adjourn at 7:48 pm was made by Linda Larson and seconded by Nina Mattson. Motion passed.

Next Meeting: Thursday March 11, 2021 At this point plan for an online meeting. Beth will confirm prior to that meeting.

Submitted by Linda Larson, HRC Secretary