



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
ci.northfield.mn.us

Meeting Minutes - Final Human Rights Commission

Thursday, April 8, 2021

6:00 PM

Online/Telephone

6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Wornson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Also present: Beth Kallestad (City Administration Liaison), Tom Baraniak (School Board Liaison); Youth representatives: Ella Mayer, Leaf Pennock

Guests: Rebecca Lucero, Audel Shokohzadeh (MN Department of Human Rights), Samuel Wilmes (Northfield News)

Also absent: Joseph Ascencio Bravo, Grant Bouvin

Present: 7 - Jennie Eubank, Veronica Gamino, Linda Larson, Mar Valdecantos, Barb Wornson, Bruce Morlan and Matthew Lovick

Absent: 2 - Nina Mattson and Jonathan Woodyard

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Gamino, seconded by Commissioner Larson, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Eubank, Gamino, Larson, Valdecantos, Wornson, Morlan and Lovick

Not Present: 2 - Mattson and Woodyard

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [21-208](#) Adoption of Minutes

Attachments: [DRAFT_HRC Meeting Minutes March 11 2021](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Gamino, seconded by Commissioner Larson, to approve the March 11, 2021 HRC Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Eubank, Gamino, Larson, Valdecantos, Wornson, Morlan and Lovick

Not Present: 2 - Mattson and Woodyard

PRESENTATIONS

2. [21-209](#) Conversation with Minnesota Department of Human Rights Commissioner Lucero

Per the Minnesota Department of Human Rights(MDHR) <<http://www.mn.gov/mdhr>> website: "We are the state's civil rights enforcement agency and envision a world where

everyone can lead lives full of dignity and joy."

MDHR Commissioner Lucero shared changes in the reporting of incidents of bias to better track type and location of incidents throughout the state. Any person who experiences bias or witnesses bias can report to the MDHR; immigration status and names are not requested. Reports related to protected classes. Lucero stated that language matters: i.e. rather than 'we don't discriminate,' use 'we welcome.' Lucero encouraged the HRC to connect with State Representatives to learn what is being discussed and voted on in the Legislature and to be involved in discussions. Commissioner Lucero asked Commission members to share positive changes in Northfield.

Commissioner Valdecantos shared some key accomplishments including Municipal ID; approval of the Land Acknowledgement Statement; ongoing work on housing initiatives; Rice County Neighbors United; Hispanic Heritage Month in September. Tom Baraniak shared work being done in the school system including renaming Sibley Elementary as Spring Creek Elementary School; changing High School Raider Mascot; students are working on their own Land Acknowledgement Statement.

NEW BUSINESS

3. [21-210](#) Consider Community Picnic

After discussion of the community picnic and the changes that will be made by changing the name Najwa Community Picnic to Community Picnic and determining the best location, it was decided to hold off until 2022 for this event due to the Pandemic. The goal of the picnic is to build community so with the still rising cases of Covid-19 in Rice County it will be difficult to create an environment where people can be together, sharing a meal and making new connections

4. [21-211](#) Support for Hispanic Heritage Celebration

The Library is expanding the kick-off event of the Hispanic Heritage Celebration, which will be held in Central Park on September 18, to be even more of a community event. They are seeking funding to help with the cost of performers. The HRC could have information available at the event about the Human Rights Violation process.

A motion was made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Gamino, to contribute \$1,500 from the HRC 2021 budget to help support the 2021 Hispanic Heritage Celebration.

Yes: 7 - Eubank, Gamino, Larson, Valdecantos, Wornson, Morlan and Lovick

Not Present: 2 - Mattson and Woodyard

REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS AND CHAIR

Commissioner Eubank is working with the Library and Arts Guild to have a Pride in the Park Celebration on June 5th.

Commissioner Larson indicated working with Red Wing in preparing a conversion therapy ban.

Commissioner Lovick commended the school renaming project and wondered about also changing the Sibley name from Sibley Swale Park and Sibley Drive. Kallestad will check the status of these changes and give an update at the next meeting.

STAFF UPDATES**5. [21-212](#)****Staff Report**

The City of Northfield, in collaboration with Northfield Public Schools and Healthy Community Initiative (HCI), held the second gathering of the Northfield Racial & Ethnic Equity Collaborative on March 24, 2021. Three priority areas to focus work have been chosen: Building Awareness & Understanding through Community Engagement; Housing; Employment/Workforce.

The HRA funded Housing Study is complete and can be found on the City website.

City Council and staff are working on updates to Strategic Plan with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as a priority.

After discussion with City Administrator Martig, the HRC will not take a up a resolution regarding Healthcare for All.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Morlan, seconded by Commissioner Larson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:17pm.

Yes: 7 - Eubank, Gamino, Larson, Valdecantos, Wornson, Morlan and Lovick

Not Present: 2 - Mattson and Woodyard