



# City of Northfield

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final Human Rights Commission

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Thursday, October 14, 2021

6:00 PM

2nd Floor Training Room

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

Vice Chair Valdecantos called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM

**Present:** 6 - Jennie Eubank, Veronica Gamino, Linda Larson, Mar Valdecantos, Bruce Morlan and Ella Mayer

**Absent:** 3 - Nina Mattson, Barb Wornson and Matthew Lovick

### ALSO PRESENT

*Advisory Board Member Lucy Gonzalez Miron; Youth Representative Ana George; Tom Baraniak, School Board Representative; Beth Kallestad, Staff Liaison; Judy Becker, Meeting Associate*

### ABSENT

*Advisory Board Member Abdullahi Abdullahi; Youth Representative Leaf Pennock*

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion by Commissioner Larson, second by Commissioner Gamino, to approve the October 14, 2021 Meeting Agenda. Motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Eubank, Gamino, Larson, Valdecantos, Morlan and Mayer

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [21-567](#) September 9, 2021 HRC Meeting Minutes

**Attachments:** [09-09-2021 HRC Meeting Minutes Draft](#)

**Motion by Commissioner Larson, second by Commissioner Gamino, to approve the Meeting Minutes of September, 9, 2021 as written. Motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Eubank, Gamino, Larson, Valdecantos, Morlan and Mayer

### PUBLIC COMMENT

*None*

### PRESENTATIONS

2. [21-568](#) Racial Equity Action Plan Update.

**Attachments:** [1 - REAP update](#)  
[2 - Northfield Racial Equity Action Plan ADOPTED 07212020](#)

*Kallestad gave an update on the implementation of the Racial Equity Action Plan, a copy of which was provided in the Agenda Packet, File #21-568, and shared with the City Council on September 7, 2021.*

*Highlights:*

- \* History of the plan development*
- \* Racial Equity Statement*
- \* Need for a plan*
- \* Three focus areas*
  - Normalizing*
  - Organizing*
  - Operationalizing*
- \* Progress in 2020 which included book conversations of "A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota," which can be checked out from the staff library in City Hall and the Public Library*
- \* Northfield Racial & Ethnic Equity Collaborative*

## NEW BUSINESS

3. [21-569](#) MLK Celebration

**Attachments:** [1 - MLK Program 2020 DRAFT](#)

*The Human Rights Commission (HRC) plans and hosts a celebration on Martin Luther King (MLK) Day, which next year will be Monday, January 17, 2022. The HRC will present a Human Rights Award at this event.*

*Items to consider are:*

- \* Theme*
- \* Program*
- \* Speakers*
- \* Venue and format*

*Commissioners Eubank and Gonzalez Miron expressed interest in being on a subcommittee to plan this event. Kallestad will send an email to all HRC members to determine interest in being on this subcommittee. Subcommittee can consist of up to 4 voting members. Non-voting members are also able to participate.*

4. [21-570](#) November meeting date

*The next scheduled meeting is on November 11th, which is Veterans Day and government offices are closed.*

*Commission members agreed to change the meeting date to Tuesday, November 9th, to be held in the Public Library meeting room. Kallestad will determine if this room is available and will notify Commission members not present of the change in date.*

## OLD BUSINESS

5. [21-571](#) Beyond the Land Acknowledgement Committee Update

*Commissioner Valdecantos discussed that the group plans to draft a letter and ask the Mayor to send it to the leadership of the Prairie Island Indian Community to begin a formal intergovernmental relationship.*

*HRC members suggested that the Land Acknowledgement Statement be read at the following events/meetings each year: the first City Council meeting of the year, the HRC led MLK Celebration, the State of the City address and any City led celebrations on Indigenous Peoples' Day.*

## **6. Conversion Therapy Ban Update**

*Commissioner Larson referenced State Executive Order 21-25, scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2022. The HRC subcommittee feels the need to continue to work on a City ban on conversion therapy and will reconvene to determine the steps necessary to bring this issue to the City Council.*

## **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

*Commissioner Morlan will be on KYM radio on Wednesday, October 20th at 9:00 AM to discuss climate change the refugee crisis.*

*Youth Representative Ana George is working with the Northfield High School Environmental Club on sustainable products and how those could be purchased in bulk to reduce costs for those with lower incomes.*

*Youth Representative Ella Mayer asked how the youth members can best share information about the work and events of the HRC with High School students. Kallestad mentioned that Facebook and Instagram through the City are venues also available to provide information to the public.*

*Commissioner Valdecantos and Advisory Board Member Gonzalez Miron discussed housing for all and the various groups around state that are participating in this concern.*

*Advisory Board Member Gonzalez Miron spoke about the recognition award for the work Northfield did around the Municipal ID. This will be shared with the City Council the October 19th Council meeting.*

*Commissioner Eubanks shared about hopes for a potential public art and community engagement project in development.*

*Commissioner Valdecantos indicated a mural is being painted on the Just Food Coop building. All are invited to add to the mural; painting is scheduled for Sundays from 12:00-6:00 PM. Valdecantos also described the progress in providing interpreter services in the public schools.*

*School Board Representative Beraniak discussed school involvement in Indigenous Peoples' Day. Beraniak also discussed including in NPS' strategic plan statements for diversity, equity and inclusion and human rights for all.*

## **STAFF UPDATES**

### **7. [21-572](#)**

#### **Staff Report**

*Kallestad reviewed the staff report as included in the Agenda Packet, File #21-572.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Commissioner Morlan, second by Commissioner Larson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 PM. Motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Eubank, Gamino, Larson, Valdecantos, Morlan and Mayer