



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
northfieldmn.gov

Meeting Minutes - Final Human Rights Commission

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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

Acting Chair Wornson called the Human Rights Commission (HRC) Meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Present: 6 - Glenda Orrego, Veronica Gamino, Bruce Morlan, Barb Wornson, Jennie Autonoe and Aidyn Plasch

Absent: 1 - Matthew Lovick

ALSO PRESENT

Advisory Members Lucy Gonzalez Miron, Mar Valdecantos; Youth Representatives: Ana George (arrived at 6:14 p.m.), Sarah Ripka, Martin Rosas; Tom Baraniak, School Board Representative; Francisco Gaytan, Meeting Associate/Interpreter; Claudia Garcia, Staff Liaison

ABSENT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Gamino, second by Commissioner Orrego, to approve the November 30, 2022 Meeting Agenda. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Orrego, Gamino, Morlan, Wornson, Autonoe and Plasch

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [22-768](#) October 26, 2022 HRC Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [10-26-2022 HRC Meeting Minutes Draft](#)

Motion Commissioner Autonoe, second by Youth Representative Plasch, to approve the Minutes of the October 26, 2022 Meeting. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Orrego, Gamino, Morlan, Wornson, Autonoe and Plasch

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATIONS

None

STAFF UPDATES

2. [22-769](#)

Staff Report.

Youth Representative Ana George arrived at 6:14 p.m.

Staff Liaison Garcia reviewed the Staff Report. Of particular note:

- * Holiday Social and Appreciation Reception, Tuesday, December 13th, 5p.m.- 7p.m., Reunion, 501 Division Street*
- * Racial Equity Core Team is planning for DEI training, mandatory for city staff.*
- * A Press Release was posted on November 14, 2022, indicating that the HRC is seeking nominees for the annual Human Rights Award; nominations must be submitted by December 12, 2022.*
- * Boards and Commissions Training Video is available at:
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJGOypU15pc>>*
- * Localist, a Community Events Calendar, available through the City of Northfield website and at: <https://events.northfieldmn.gov>, has been established for public use.*
- * Recording and live streaming all Boards and Commissions meetings will be brought to the City Council for action in January 2023*
- * Cultural & Language Training: <<https://www.northfieldmn.gov/1297/LanguageLine>>*
- * Zoom webinar with interpreter feature*
- * NPB Charter and Spectrum Channels 180 & 187*

There was discussion around Human Rights Award nominations.

About the Award: The Human Rights Award was established to grant recognition to an area individual, group, or organization that has contributed to the advancement of human rights in Northfield. The HRC seeks to find a balanced and diverse slate of nominees that contribute locally to the cause of human rights in a variety of ways.

Advisory Member Valdecantos indicated that, in the past, members of the HRC have not been able to nominate candidates nor could a Commissioner, currently active on the HRC, be nominated. If no nominations were received, the HRC could submit candidates.

Youth Representative Plasch would like members of the HRC to be able to nominate HRA candidates. Commissioner Autonoe suggested there be a balance of HRC and public nominations. Commissioner Morlan stated the Rotary Club does not allow its membership to nominate candidates for awards. Advisory Member Gonzalez Miron stated they actively recruit nominations from within the community and promote recruitment by others.

Motion by Youth Representative Plasch, second by Commissioner Gamino, that for this year and going forward, HRC members be able to nominate candidates for the HRA, in addition to receiving nominations from the public. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Orrego, Gamino, Wornson, Autonoe and Plasch

No: 1 - Morlan

NEW BUSINESS

3. [22-770](#)

Discussion and voting on December meeting date.

Staff Liaison Garcia indicated the scheduled date for the December meeting is Wednesday, December 28th. Garcia also presented other dates in December when the

Council Chambers are available.

Motion by Commissioner Gamino, second by Commissioner Morlan, to keep the scheduled date of Wednesday, December 28, 2022 for the December meeting.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Orrego, Gamino, Morlan, Wornson, Autonoe and Plasch

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. [22-771](#) Consideration of Establishment of Subcommittees.

Attachments: [1 - HRC Strategic Plan in English](#)

Following are celebrations in which the HRC partners and for which subcommittees are needed, along with members interested in working on the subcommittees:

· *Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration*

- * Adam Wale
- * Lucy Gonzalez Miron
- * Barbara Wornson
- * Mar Valdecantos
- * Glenda Orrego

· *Pride in the Park*

- * Ana Gonzalez George
- * Sara Ripka
- * Veronica Gamino
- * Aidyn Plasch

· *Hispanic Heritage Celebration*

- * Glenda Orrego
- * Martin Rosas
- * Barbara Wornson
- * Bruce Morlan
- * Veronica Gamino

· *Community Picnic*

- * Bruce Morlan
- * Barbara Wornson
- * Jennie Autonoe

Advisory Member Valdecantos explained the structure of the Martin Luther King event, to be held Monday, January 16, 2023, at Emmaus Baptist Church, Northfield. Valdecantos offered to be the speaker and suggested for entertainment singer Guillermo Calderón, to be accompanied by Liliana Ramos, the DJ. The Human Rights Award nominee will be announced and presented with a plaque and will also speak. There will be community singing, and open microphone for discussions about human rights issues; refreshments and time to mingle. The City provides a photographer and Emmaus has recording equipment. Valdecantos has a template for the subcommittee to follow and recommends that the subcommittee convene as soon as possible.

Morlan detailed some ideas for the Community Picnic and will share these with subcommittee members once they meet.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS AND CHAIR

Advisory Member Valdecantos indicated they will submit their views on the history of assigning voting rights to commission members as well as how commission members are appointed to the HRC; in addition, they will propose that there be a panel of individuals to approve commission members. This item will be on the agenda for the January meeting.

Advisory Members Gonzalez Miron and Valdecantos have spent the last two decades on the issue of Driver's Licenses for All. In 2003, Governor Pawlenty removed the right of non-citizens in the state to have a driver's license, which causes hardships, especially in rural Minnesota where there is limited public transportation. They have worked with Jovita Morales, Leader of Minnesota Immigrant Movement, on the issue of Driver's Licenses for All. They are suggesting that the HRC support this effort by writing a letter in support of this issue.

Motion by Commissioner Morlan, second by Youth Representative Plasch, to write a letter in support of the Driver's Licenses for All campaign from the HRC to the City Council, requesting the Council approve this campaign .

Staff Liaison Garcia indicated the next HRC meeting is not until December 28th, with the new Legislative session to start January 3rd. Advisory Member Valdecantos indicated they would write a letter of support for review by the HRC at the December meeting.

Motion revised by Commissioner Morlan, seconded by Youth Representative Plasch, for the HRC to review and approve a letter of support from the HRC at the December meeting for the Driver's Licenses for All campaign, to be sent to the Legislature and the Governor, immediately after approval, with a copy going to the City Council requesting their support. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Orrego, Gamino, Morlan, Wornson, Autonoe and Plasch

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Gamino, second by Commissioner Morlan, to adjourn at 7:41 PM. Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Orrego, Gamino, Morlan, Wornson, Autonoe and Plasch