



AGENDA

Equity Commission

New Brighton City Hall; 803 Old Hwy 8
NW Upper Level Conference Room
November 16, 2023 | 6:30 p.m.

Equity Commissioners will attend the meeting in person. Meeting options for members of the public include:

- **Attend the meeting in person:** Attendees who are ill are asked to wear masks and comply with social distancing parameters.
- **Watch the meeting electronically:** Tune into CTV Chanel 8023 (CenturyLink) or Channel 16 (Comcast). To observe the meeting as a livestream or a webcast, visit www.newbrightonmn.gov, hover over "How Do I...", click on "Public Meetings" under View, choose appropriate Commission and date.
- **Join the meeting electronically:** Join using Zoom app: Meeting ID: 898 6240 2361, Passcode 867530 or visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89862402361?pwd=MWtPeIRNTGt2RmR2TktwSkM0R1VHdz09>

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair Lindsay Spooner | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Carlos Herrera |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice-Chair Kami Miller | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Ellen Weber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Jonas Lim | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Cathy Forbes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Kristin Lau | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Jason Steffenhagen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Kisten Thompson | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Liliana Triviski |

III. Approval of Agenda

IV. Approval of 10.19.2023 Minutes

V. Business Items

- a. Youth Equity in Schools

VI. Chair Update – Lindsay Spooner

- a. What have we noticed around the City?

VII. City Staff Update – Hue Schlieu, DEI Coordinator

VIII. City Council Update – Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas, Mayor

IX. Adjournment – Next meeting: December 14, 2023



MINUTES
New Brighton Equity Commission
Regular Meeting – October 19, 2023
6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Commissioners Cathy Forbes, Kristin Lau, Kami Miller, Lindsay Spooner, Kisten Thompson, and Liliana Triviski.

Members Absent: Commissioners Carlos Herrera, Jonas Lim, Jason Steffenhagen, and Ellen Weber.

Also Present: Authorizing Commission Liaison Hue Schlieu

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Lau to approve the agenda as presented.

Approved 6-0

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Lau to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2023 meeting.

Approved 6-0

V. Business Items

A. Parks Discussion

Schlieu stated several events have provided an opportunity to discuss Parks related topics such as PREC (Parks, Recreation, & Environmental Commission) and Equity Commission members received a Parks Tour, PREC requested Equity Commission's input regarding Totem Pole Park, City Council approved the City Land Acknowledgment; one commitment is to "elevate the ongoing connection between Dakota people and the land we call home", and the Equity Commission will discuss Parks Tour, Totem Pole Park, and Renaming a Park.

Discussion included:

- Chair Spooner reviewed the goals within the Parks Plan with the Commission.
- The demographics of the community were reviewed.
- It was noted there has been a request for more intergenerational activities in the community.
- The Commission believed it was important to have proper signage within parks for restroom facilities.
- The Commission supported the City communicating properly with residents regarding how to access parks.
- The Commission wondered if there were any parks in the City that were overtaxed or overburdened by the public.
- The Commission requested information from staff regarding park safety.
- The Commission supported further investigating into where there is tension and friction in the community and how could the Equity Commission partner with the Parks Department.
- The Commission recommended benches be placed through City parks and not just in front of the playground areas.
- Further discussion ensued regarding the history of Totem Pole Park.
- The Commission asked if the community has made complaints about the Totem Pole. Schlieu reported she was not aware of any complaints from the community.
- The Commission stated if the totem pole was not put back in the park, it may be appropriate to rename the park versus reverting back to the old name.
- The Commission recommended the public be made aware of what was happening in this park.
- The Commission discussed how the totem pole could be repurposed if it was not reinstalled in its current form, in order to preserve the cultural history.
- Schlieu stated another option may be to donate the totem pole to the historical society in order to keep it in tact. Or if the community valued the totem pole, perhaps a third pole--made in relationship with Alaskan Native community members--could be erected with interpretive signage.
- The Commission supported further exploring the relationships with native people in the community.
- The consensus of the Commission was to retire the totem pole name and object, but to find some way to honor the eagle scouts efforts, the residents in the area, and/or the Dakota people. The Commission then discussed what their anchor point or goal for the community should be. There was interest in bringing the PREC, historical society, boy scouts, and community along through this process.
- Schlieu commented on the process that was followed for renaming a park. She discussed how other communities had renamed parks and roadways.
- The Commission supported partnering with PREC if Totem Pole Park were to be renamed in order to find a meaningful park name.
- The Commission was interested in working with PREC on interpretive park signage in order to honor the Dakota people.

VI. Chair Update – Lindsay Spooner

A. What have we noticed around the City?

There was nothing new to discuss.

VII. City Staff Update – Hue Schlieu, Authorizing Commission Liaison

Schlieu requested the new Commissioners introduce themselves to the Commission. Commissioners Triviski and Thompson introduced themselves to the group and shared their passions.

Schlieu reported a virtual Just Deeds event would be held on Tuesday, December 5 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. She explained she was drafting a letter that would be sent to residents that have racial covenants and this letter would be forwarded to the Equity Commissioners for feedback. She suggested the letter would be signed by Chair Spooner and Vice Chair Miller. The Commission supported this recommendation.

Schlieu explained PREC would be meeting on Wednesday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m. and the Climate Action Plan will be presented. She noted all Commission members would be invited to attend this meeting.

Schlieu commented on a racial equity dividends index study staff participated in with the Center for Economic Inclusion. She indicated results from this study would be coming back to staff in early November and would assist in guiding her work plan for the coming year.

VIII. City Council Update – Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas

There was nothing to report.

IX. Adjournment – Next Meeting: November 16, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hue Schlieu
Authorizing Commission Liaison

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

ITEM DESCRIPTION: Youth Equity in Schools
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S APPROVAL:
CITY MANAGER'S APPROVAL:
No comments to supplement this report ____ Comments attached ____

Background:

The Equity Commission expressed an interest in exploring government's role in further equity for young people. Since approximately 3,800 of New Brighton residents are school-aged youth, school administrators were invited to share what school districts are currently doing to elevate equity for their students.

Principal Vichai Saefong from Irondale High School will be sharing those efforts with Commissioners.

Task Overview:

The Equity Commission is tasked with:

- Listening and learning to understand the equity landscape the school has or hopes to provide.
- Asking questions to better understand the school's perspective and initiatives.
- Start thinking of discussion points for the next Commission meeting regarding what is government's role in furthering youth equity and what that might look like if the City can and should act.

Financial Impact:

- None

Resources:

- None



Hue Schlieu
DEI Coordinator