

Brooklyn Park 
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Special Meeting
Thursday, July 20, 2023
Brooklyn Park City Hall, Room A203

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

If you need these materials in an alternative format or need reasonable accommodations for a Human Rights Commission meeting, please provide the City with 72-hours' notice by calling 763-493-8394 or emailing Marcellus Davis at marcellus.davis@brooklynpark.org. Para asistencia, 763-424-8000; Yog xav tau kev pab, 763-424-8000.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Chair Aja King – 6:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call/Attendance – Staff Liaison Marcellus Davis – 6:02 p.m.
3. Approval of Agenda – All – 6:08 p.m.
4. **Approval of the June 15, 2023 meeting minutes**- All- 6:09 p.m.
5. **Sister City Human Rights Conversation with Community Engagement** (Josie Shardlow Community Engagement Manager) – All – 6:10 p.m.
6. Juneteenth & Pride Event Updates-Dr. Davis – 6:40 p.m.
7. Bias report – All – 7:00 p.m.
8. Back 2 School Drive – 7:15 – Dr. Davis p.m.
9. City Council Liaison Report – Council Member Boyd Morson – 7:35 p.m.
10. City Staff Report – Marcellus – 7:45 p.m.
11. Old Business – 7:50 p.m.
12. New Business – 7:52 p.m.
13. Adjournment – All – 7:55 p.m.

Brooklyn Park

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

DRAFT MINUTES

Date of Meeting: May 18, 2023

Location: City Hall – Room A203

Time Began: 6:10 p.m.

Time Adjourned: 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendance—Commissioners							
Member	District	Present		Member	District	Present	
		Yes	No			Yes	No
Chelsea Youngquist	West		X	Mark Hostetler	West	X	
Andrea Perez-Maikkula	Central	X		Brenda Blackhawk	At-large	X	
	East			Kevin Xiong	Central		X
Minn Wang	Central	X		Andy Vue	Emerging Leader		X
Aja King	At-large	X		Vacant	Emerging Leader		
Jen Best	At-large		X				
Marcellus Davis	City Staff Liaison		X	Council Member Boyd Morson	Council Member Liaison	X	

1. Call to Order – Chair Dr. King – 6:10 p.m.
2. Roll Call/Attendance – Staff Liaison Dr. Marcellus Davis – 6:11 p.m.
3. Approval of Agenda – All – 6:12 p.m.
 - i. Co-Chair Hostetler, Blackhawk, seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion was approved.
4. Approval of minutes from the May 18th, 2023 meeting – All – 6:09 p.m.
 - i. A motion was made to approve the minutes from May 18th, 2023.
 - ii. Commissioners Blackhawk and Hostetler seconded the motion, and it was approved.
5. Conversation with Community Economic Development (Sarah Abe & Breanne Rothstein)-All-6:10 p.m.
 - Visit with the CLIC Commission
 - Clic members in attendance: Joan Schaefer and Umebe Onyejekwe
 - Discussed wanting to explore city resources and programs focused on dedicated housing for children. Discussed the need for political will and by-in from the council.
 - Suggested volunteering in the city – document their hours/use as job experience
 - Council is preparing to develop next year’s budget in October – HRC would like to weigh in and would like the budget to reflect our city’s values and needs of minority communities, historically excluded. Desire communication on the budget 2024/2025 design from the council. Would like enough budget to go towards DEI initiatives. Want the council to shape the budget accordingly with consideration of the real suffering of economic disparities. HRC highlighted that some city residents don’t qualify for city housing programs.
 - HRC expressed interest in knowing the role of the budget advisory committee and HRC meeting with the budget committee.

- HRC member asked, are we really putting our city funds toward equity authentically, that's resulting in a meaningful impact to affected communities? Don't want the city's equity work to solely look like just hiring Dr. Davis/DEI manager. HRC would like to know what/how much power and influence Dr. Davis has in his role? Does he have sincere freedom to be objective and evaluate city practices?
6. Pride Event Update – All– 7:10 p.m.
 7. Bias Report – All – 7:15 p.m.
 - No discussion
 8. Juneteenth Event – All – 7:25 p.m.
 - The HRC praised the city's Juneteenth website for being lively, colorful, and informative.
 9. City Council Liaison Report – Council Member Boyd Morson – 7:35 p.m.
 - HRC would like to be more involved in the sister city process, including examining human rights violations and ensuring they align with our values. Connecting with the city in Liberia's 3 acres of land/park dedicated to BP.
 - Assess cultural differences of sister cities, and design expectations for the dedication of Liberian BP park such as designing a plaque/ flag/ education about BP – exchange artwork maybe?
 - Question from HRC/2 Clic members: How can the city promote our sister cities as well?
 - Additional questions and comments from the HRC meeting: what is the value for residents with sister cities?
 - What is the city's political angle with partnership with cities?
 - Assess power vs relationship /about ppl. How does sister cities benefit residents?
 - Will HRC/City of BP face political blowback with choices of sister cities?
 - How can we evaluate if sister cities decisions serve the interests of/ conflicts of interest with current elected council members?
 - HRC asked what cultural exchange looks like between the city and sister cities. HRC highlighted the city's donation of fire department equipment/scholarships/tourism/reflect Brooklyn Park communities.
 - Suggested HRC could help develop criteria for sister city partnerships. Clic member suggested cultural exchanges, such as, sharing food and history education. HRC asked that the city evaluate sister cities and ensure the program isn't exclusive with a primary focus on African-related cities.
 - HRC would like mor information on upcoming EBO fest and ways the city/HRC can support event.
 10. City Staff Report – Marcellus – 7:45 p.m.
 - No discussion.
 11. Old Business – 7:50 p.m.
 - No discussion.
 12. New Business – 7:52 p.m.
 - No discussion.
 13. Adjournment – All – 7:55 p.m.
 - A motion was made by Commissioners Blackhawk and Hostetler seconded the motion, and it was approved to adjourn the meeting.
 - Motion was approved.

Submitter: Marcellus Davis



City of Brooklyn Park

Process and Criteria for Sister City Relationships

A. Process for establishing new sister city relationships

Organizations interested in starting a sister city relationship should contact the City of Brooklyn Park Community Engagement Division to discuss the requirements for submitting a proposal. To be considered, a proposal must meet the requirements described below. Submission of a proposal does not guarantee that Brooklyn Park will enter into a sister city relationship.

The City Manager, or his/her designee, will review the proposal and may recommend that the proposal be submitted to the City Council for review and approval. All sister city relationships must be approved by the City Council and Mayor before an official invitation to proceed can be extended.

The following definitions are used for the purpose of this document:

Sponsor organization: A Brooklyn Park organization that will manage the sister city relationship. The organization must be based in Minnesota, and either designated by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) non-profit and registered with the Minnesota Secretary of State or have a fiscal agent that meets the same criteria.

Sister city committee: The same as the sponsor organization or a committee of the sponsor organization organized to manage the sister city relationship.

Sister City: A city that has a formal relationship with Brooklyn Park recognized by a Sister City Agreement.

Sister City Agreement: A memorandum of understanding between Brooklyn Park and another city outlining the terms of the sister city relationship.

Sponsor Agreement: A memorandum of understanding between the City of Brooklyn Park and a sponsor organization outlining the requirements for managing the sister city relationship.

B. Proposal Requirements

1. Demographic profile of the proposed sister city.
2. Description of the benefits to both cities.
3. Description of how the sister city relationship will support the goals of the City of Brooklyn Park.
4. Membership list for the proposed sister city committee.
5. Description of the proposed sister city's expectations for the relationship with Brooklyn Park.
6. Letter of invitation from the Mayor of the proposed sister city.
7. List of at least 20 Brooklyn Park residents interested in participating in the sister city relationship. This must include address, phone number and e-mail address for each person.

8. Optional: Letters of support

C. Criteria

1. Brooklyn Park does not have a sister city relationship with any other cities in the country.
2. The relationship is multi-purpose and presents the opportunity for benefits to both cities.
3. The sister city relationship supports the City of Brooklyn Park's goals and objectives.
4. There is solid current and long-term local support for the new relationship:
 - a. Business connections
 - b. Financial support from groups and individuals
 - c. Governmental, educational and cultural interest
5. The potential sister city has demonstrated strong interest in and commitment to the relationship.
6. There is involvement from Brooklyn Park residents.

D. Requirements for creating and maintaining a sister city relationship

If a sister city relationship is approved, the following steps will be followed:

1. The mayor of Brooklyn Park will send a letter to the mayor of the proposed sister city.
2. The sponsor organization will be required to enter into a Sponsor Agreement with the City of Brooklyn Park.
 - a. As part of the Agreement the sponsor organization will be required to:
 - i. Be designated by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) non-profit and registered with the Minnesota Secretary of State or have a fiscal agent that meets the same criteria.
 - ii. Present an annual report.
 - iii. Facilitate exchanges between Brooklyn Park and the proposed sister city.
 - iv. Provide volunteer and financial resources to support the Sister City Agreement.
 - v. Maintain an active sister city committee, including the recruitment of new participants.
3. The Sister City Agreement and Sponsor Agreement will be developed and approved by City Council.
4. The mayors sign the Sister City Agreement.
5. The Sister City Agreement is filed with Sister Cities International.

E. Brooklyn Park 2025 Community Goals

Working together to make Brooklyn Park a thriving community, inspiring pride where opportunities exist for all

By 2025, our community wants to accomplish these goals by 2025:

1. A united and welcoming community, strengthened by our diversity
2. Beautiful spaces and quality infrastructure make Brooklyn Park a unique destination
3. A balanced economic environment that empowers businesses and people to thrive
4. People of all ages have what they need to feel healthy and safe
5. Partnerships that increase racial and economic equity empower residents and neighborhoods to prosper
6. Effective and engaging government recognized as a leader

F. Objectives for a sister city relationship

1. Explore economic development synergies between cities and develop avenues for local businesses who want to establish or expand international commercial initiatives.
2. Increase community awareness of the influence and impact that foreign policy and the global marketplace have on our community.
3. Provide more options for residents to experience, understand and appreciate other cultures.
4. Share best practices for city government.
5. Develop and support educational, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.