

AGENDA

1. ROLL CALL: Fox, Ralston Aoki, Lee, Smith, Nailon, Kirkeeng, Murphy, Dlugose
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
3. ICEBREAKER
4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES
 - A. Review and approve Commission meeting minutes from July 14, 2025.
Review and approve Subcommittee meeting minutes from August 23, 2025.
5. CHAIR REPORT
6. VICE-CHAIR REPORT
7. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Obergefell event debrief. Video link is available at <https://reflect-ccx.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/38289?site=20>
 - B. RPHC work and community engagement
 1. South Halifax Park event
 2. Lilac Parkway building meeting
 3. Immigration law event
 4. Sanborn Park renaming
 - C. Unhoused ordinance update
 - D. Main Street Meet and greet on Monday, Sept 15, 2025
 - E. DEI Commission Forum event in Minnetonka on Tuesday, Sept 30, 2025.
8. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Feedback on draft policy related to Commissioner conduct
 - B. Golden Valley neighbor event on Thurs, Sept 18.
<https://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/743/Building-An-Equitable-Golden-Valley-BAEG>
9. COMMISSIONER REPORTS:
10. OTHER BUSINESS
 - A. Ideas for guest speakers to invite to future meetings

11. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES

ROLL CALL

Present: Ralston Aoki, Kirkeeng, Fox, Lee, Nailon, Smith, Murphy, Dlugose.

City Liaison: Brookes

Guests: Jill Adkins, Jonathan Hansen, Ben Hansen

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Addition: Rescheduling August meeting

Motion to approve agenda: Kirkeeng

Seconded: Murphy

Motion carried

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Motion to approve with edits discussed: Lee

Seconded: Fox.

Motion carried.

CHAIR REPORT

Icebreaker: How does law affect our lives?

Ralston Aoki: Attended Blue Line event.

OLD BUSINESS

A. RPHC Work and Community Enagagement

1. Obergefell event planning update

Fox: Planning meeting took place on July 23. Please arrive at City Hall tomorrow at 4:30 pm to set up chairs and tables.

2. August Night Out outreach at Parker Station Flats

Kirkeeng: Event will take place Tuesday, August 5 from 4:30-6:30. Looking for other members to join. Will bring info to share. Lee will join Kirkeeng.

3. September community engagement event at Manor Park or South Halifax Park

Ralston Aoki: Planning an outreach event in conjunction with JCPP. Topics to include safety, landlord/tenant rights. Thinking of a Saturday early afternoon. Check Recreation programs to avoid conflict.

Motion to hold an outreach event at South Halifax Park in Sept: Smith.

Seconded, Murphy.

Motion carried.

4. Main Street Meet and greet:

Monday, Sept 15, 5:30-7:30 pm on West Broadway.

Motion to participate in Meet and Greet: Lee.

Seconded, Fox.

Motion carried.

Lee, Fox, Smith, and Ralston Aoki will attend for HRC.

5. Immigration Outreach

Smith: Was contacted by Faith Chapel Evangelistic Ministries. Seeking a lawyer to address immigration topics. Ideally Sunday. Murphy: Has a contact at the Immigrant Law Center who may be able to help.

Motion to approve HRC planning an immigration awareness event, date TBD this summer or fall: Smith. Seconded, Lee.

Motion carried.

6. Update on proposed ordinance to make temporary camping on city property a misdemeanor crime

Kirkeeng: There were insightful questions at the council meeting.

7. Update on proposed equity charter amendment

Nailon: called out state constitution- can't pass as it is.

B. Communications Plan Review and Discussion

Tabled for next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Upcoming Events

1. Participation in DEI Commissions event in Minnetonka, Sept. 30 at 6:00 PM. Ralson Aoki will RSVP by August 19.
2. Participation in Restorative Practices workshop on August 1st, hosted by Golden Valley. Kirkeeng will attend.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Smith: Social worker at Lilac Parkway would like HRC to visit again to discuss security. We would need to set a date, and they can promote to residents.

Nailon: No update

Kirkeeng: Trump signed EO to force hospitalization and forced commitment of unhoused people. For awareness.

Lee: No update

Fox: Looking forward to Saturday.

Brookes: City Manager would like to come to a meeting. Parks name submissions open on Aug 11.

Murphy: EO 1248- push for aggressive policing. Murphy will meet with City Manager to bounce ideas off.

Rally for Families on Sat afternoon in NE Mpls. 312 Central Ave, Labor Center, 2-3 pm. SEIU.

Dlugose: No update

OTHER BUSINESS

August meeting rescheduled to Tuesday, August 26 in the Manor Park building.

Public comment: Jonathan Hansen shared his thoughts on HRC activities.

A. Questions from new members?

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn 9:14 pm

7-28-25 RPHC subcommittee meeting minutes

- Meeting started at 6:35 PM, at Manor Park Building
- Present: Julie Ralston Aoki, Kristyn Lee, Patrick Nailon, Dan Duglose
- The group discussed planning for upcoming engagement events

Parker Station Flats:

- Residents are mostly adults, not many families with kids, so no kid activity table needed
- Courtney is getting table with tablecloth
- Get copies of RPHC plan and the QR code
- Ask Joanna if we can have stickers and bracelets for RPHC
- Be there at 4:15

South Halifax Park event

Need to create an estimated budget. Plan for about 100 people, items below. Julie to use Costco online tool to get estimates.

Item	Quantity	Unit price at Costco	# of units	Cost
Hot dogs				
Buns				
Veggie PLatter				
Reg burgers				
Hamburger buns				
Condiments: relish, ketchup mustard				
Bagged chips				
Fruit: apples, bananas watermelon				
Mini cupcakes				
Mini cookies				
Beverages: water, fruit pouches				
Paper plates				
Napkins				

Activities:

- Borrow equipment from parks and rec (Patrick to ask)
- Wings background for photos

Date: aim for 9/20/25

Patrick:

- will check with Parks and Rec about date and time and equipment
- Also check with police re: squad car and car seats, and whether Ashley, the social worker can come

Prizes:

- Hy-vee gift card (Julie)
- McDonald's (Kristyn)
- Cub (Patrick)
- Make a kids basket?
- Wait on CVS and Walgreens
- Julie to write a letter

Community services table—services to feature:

- Car seats
- Where there is free weekend food
- Food shelves
- ARS services
- Red cards
- HRC info

Ask Courtney if Lion's Club would be able to help with food, grilling, tables?

Lilac Parkway

Need to follow up—Phillip suggested meeting with social worker to ask about needs. If week of 8/4 or 8/18—Kristyn could help

Robbins Landing

- Also need to follow up and figure out next steps—possibly aim for 8/6 Or 8/20
- Need COPE contact

Next meeting—aim for 8/18 at 6:30

Adjourned at 7:43 PM

8/23/2025 RPHC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

- Began at 10:35 AM at Sanborn Park
- Present: Patrick Nailon, Courtney Kirkeeng, Julie Ralston Aoki, Kristyn Lee

South Halifax Park event planning

Continued planning community engagement event.

Lion's Club already has an event planned for 9/20, so will aim for 10/4 at 1:00 instead.

Kirkeeng reported that Lion's Club board meets on first Thursday of the month, so she will bring this to the September board meeting. She believes it aligns with the Club's pillar to support children and families.

Updates from Nailon:

- Reached out to Council Member Wagner, waiting to hear
- Also reached out to Parks and Rec—waiting to hear
- Car seat installation demo,
 - Officer Lana ran the program, but she resigned 90 days ago
 - Nicole Saba—community engagement officer—took it over, but she is now a regular officer
 - Nailon has inquiries out. Will also ask about whether a car seat is available to use as a raffle prize as well as a demo

Lee updates:

- Has 24 backpacks and some supplies
- Reached out to Elim Church—no response yet. She will ping again.

Ralston Aoki updates:

- Reached out to Phillip Gray of the MAC—dates are ok; he is interested
- Estimated budget need for food is about \$300, based on Costco prices

Immigration law event—need further discussion at next HRC meeting.

Lilac Parkway—Nailon volunteered to go with Phillip Gray to find out what they are interested in.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35

Brooklyn Center City Commission Code of Respect and Ethics

Table of Contents

Brooklyn Center City Commission Code of Respect and Ethics	2
A. Commissioner Conduct with One Another	2
1. In Public Meetings.....	2
2. In Private Encounters	3
B. Commissioner Conduct with City Staff	4
C. Commissioner Conduct with the Public	4
1. In Public Meetings (For Commissions with Public Hearings)	4
2. In Unofficial Settings	5
D. Commissioner Conduct with Other Public Agencies	6
E. Poor Conduct and Accountability Measures	6
1. Conduct	6
2. Types of Accountability Measures	6
3. Process	7
4. Conduct During Meetings	8
F. Ethics	8
1. Open Meeting Law	8
2. Gift Law	9
3. Conflict of interest.....	9

Brooklyn Center City Commission Code of Respect and Ethics

A. Commissioner Conduct with One Another

City Commissions are composed of individuals with a wide variety of backgrounds, personalities, values, opinions, and goals. Despite this diversity, all have chosen to serve the community. In all cases, this common goal should be acknowledged even as Commissioners may "agree to disagree" on contentious issues.

1. In Public Meetings

- (a) **Commissioner Interaction.** Commissioners agree to practice civility, professionalism and decorum in discussions and debate. Difficult questions, tough challenges to a particular point of view, and criticism of ideas and information are legitimate elements of a free democracy in action. Commissioners can promote camaraderie and collaboration by refraining from making belligerent, personal, impertinent, slanderous, threatening, abusive, or disparaging comments. Shouting or physical actions that could be construed as threatening will not be tolerated. Commissioners should make every effort to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times, including listening actively during Commission meetings.
- (b) **Deference to Order.** Commissioners agree to honor the roles of Commission leadership including the Chair and Co-Chair in maintaining order by deferring to their direction and guidance. It is the responsibility of the Chair and/or Co-Chair to keep the Commission meetings on track during meetings. Commissioners agree to honor efforts by the Chair or Co-Chair to focus discussion on current agenda items. If there is disagreement about the agenda or Chair or Co-Chair's actions, those objections should be voiced politely and with reason, following procedures outlined in parliamentary procedure.
- (c) **Setting a Positive Example.** One prominent goal of every commission meeting should be to demonstrate a positive example of decorum and respect for constituents. To accomplish that goal, Commissioners agree to avoid comments that personally attack other Commissioners. If a Commissioner is personally attacked by the comments of another Commissioner, the offended Commissioner will make notes of the actual words used and may call for a "point of order" to challenge the other Commissioner to justify or apologize for the language used. The Chair or Co-Chair will maintain control of this discussion.
- (d) **Collaborative Problem Solving.** Another goal of the commission meeting is to demonstrate effective problem-solving approaches. Commissioners have a responsibility to show how individuals with disparate points of view can find common ground and seek a compromise that benefits the community as a whole.
- (e) **Timeliness.** To ensure smooth and timely execution of each commission meeting, Commissioners agree to make best efforts to be punctual and keep comments relative to topics discussed. Every Commissioner has made a commitment to attend meetings and participate in discussions. Therefore, it is important

that Commissioners be punctual and that meetings start on time. It is equally important that discussions on issues be relative to the topic at hand to allow adequate time to fully discuss scheduled issues.

- (f) **Endorsement of Candidates.** It is inappropriate to mention endorsements during commission meetings or other official City meetings or functions.
- (g) **Professional Courtesy.** Commissioners endeavor to avoid putting colleagues in awkward or disadvantageous positions in an effort to capitalize on another colleagues' vulnerability or to embarrass them publicly. Commissioners agree to make every attempt to submit questions or concerns to the Staff Liaison prior to formal meetings to avoid surprising Commissioners, Council Liaisons, or Staff at said meetings.
- (h) **Personal Attacks.** Commissioners shall not personally attack, under any circumstance, another member of a Commission. Commissioners acknowledge that cultural differences, body language, tone of voice, as well as the words they use, could be experienced as intimidating, off-putting, or aggressive to the message recipient.

2. In Private Encounters

- (a) **Respectful Workplace Values.** Commissioners agree to continue to model respectful behavior in private. The same level of respect and consideration of differing points of view that is deemed appropriate for public discussions should be maintained in private conversations.
- (b) **Data Practices.** Commissioners recognize that written notes, voicemail messages, social media and email may be public information. Technology allows words written or said without much forethought to be distributed wide and far. Commissioners agree to consider the following: (1) how they, their family and/or friends would feel if this voicemail message was played on a speaker phone in a full office? Or broadcast on the nightly news; (2) What could the consequences be if this email message was forwarded to others? Commissioners agree that written notes, social media postings, voicemail messages and email should be treated as potentially "public" communication.
- (c) **Public-Private Considerations.** Even private conversations can have a public presence. City officials are always on display – their actions, mannerisms, and language are monitored by people around them that they may not know. Lunch table conversations could be overheard, parking lot debates may be watched, and casual comments between individuals before and after public meetings noted.
- (d) **Personal Comments.** Commissioners agree to refrain from making personal comments about other Commissioners. It is acceptable to publicly disagree about an issue, but it is unacceptable to make derogatory comments about other Commissioners, their opinions and actions.

B. Commissioner Conduct with City Staff

Governance of the City is a cooperative effort, including elected officials, appointed officials, and staff. Therefore, every effort should be made to be cooperative and show mutual respect for the contributions made by each individual for the good of the community.

1. Respectful Workplace Values. Commissioners agree to treat all staff as professionals. Commissioners agree to engage in clear, honest communication that respects the abilities, experience, expertise, and dignity of each individual. Berating, personal, impertinent, slanderous, threatening, abusive, or disparaging comments toward staff are not acceptable and are automatic grounds for a Code of Resect violation.
2. Limited City Staff Contact. Questions for City staff and/or requests for additional background information should be directed to the City Manager or City Attorney. Commissioners agree to copy the City Manager on or keep the City Manager informed of any request. Except in extraordinary circumstances, Commissioners agree to avoid disrupting City staff while they are in meetings, on the phone, or engrossed in performing their job functions.
3. Staff Criticism. Commissioners should not publicly criticize an individual employee. Commissioners agree to express concerns about the performance of a City employee directly to the City Manager through private correspondence or conversation. Commissioners will refrain from expressing concerns in public, to the employee directly, or to the employee's manager.
4. Political Solicitation. Commissioners will not solicit any type of political support (financial contributions, display of posters or lawn signs, name on support list, etc.) from City staff.
5. Personal Comments about other Commissioners. Commissioners agree to refrain from speaking ill of other Commissioners to staff. This puts staff in an uncomfortable and compromising position because staff have the responsibility to treat all Commissioners equally and with respect.
6. Personal Attacks. Commissioners shall not personally attack, under any circumstance, a member if city staff. Commissioners acknowledge that cultural differences, body language, tone of voice, as well as the words they use, could be experienced as intimidating, off-putting, or aggressive to the message recipient.

C. Commissioner Conduct with the Public

1. In Public Meetings (For Commissions with Public Hearings)
 - (a) **Create a Welcoming Environment.** Making the public feel welcome is an important part of the democratic process. No signs of partiality, prejudice or disrespect should be evident on the part of individual Commissioners toward an individual participating in a public forum. Every effort should be made to be fair and impartial in listening to public testimony.

- (b) **Speaking Time.** The Commission as a body agrees to be fair and equitable in allocating public hearing time to individual speakers. The Commission Chair or Co-Chair will determine and announce limits on speakers at the start of the public hearing process and ensuring those with Brooklyn Center addresses have an opportunity to speak. Generally, each speaker will be allocated two minutes to speak. Applicants or their designated representatives may be allowed more time. If many speakers are anticipated, the Chair or Co-Chair may shorten the time limit and/or ask speakers to limit themselves to new information and points of view not already covered by previous speakers.
- (c) **Public Hearing Speakers.** No speaker will be turned away unless the speaker exhibits inappropriate behavior. Each speaker may only speak once during the public hearing unless the Commission requests additional clarification later in the process. After the close of the public hearing, no more public testimony will be accepted unless agreed upon by the Commission.
- (d) **Avoid Public Debate.** Commissioners agree to avoid debate and argument with the public. Only the Chair or Co-Chair – not individual Commissioners – can interrupt a speaker during a presentation. However, a Commissioner can ask the Chair or Co-Chair for a point of order if the speaker is off the topic or exhibiting behavior or language the Commissioner finds disturbing. Commissioners may request that the Chair or Co-Chair seek clarification from the speaker.
- (e) **Commission Chair to Focus Discussion.** If speakers become flustered or defensive by Commissioner questions, it is the responsibility of the Chair or Co-Chair to calm and focus the speaker and to maintain the order and decorum of the meeting. Questions by Commissioners to members of the public testifying should seek to clarify or expand information. It is never appropriate to belligerently challenge or belittle the speaker. Commissioners agree to refrain from providing personal opinions or revealing inclinations about upcoming votes until after the public hearing is closed.
- (f) **Personal Attacks.** Commissioners shall not personally attack, under any circumstance, a member/members of the public. Commissioners acknowledge that cultural differences, body language, tone of voice, as well as the words they use, could be experienced as intimidating, off-putting, or aggressive to the message recipient.

2. In Unofficial Settings

- (a) **No Promises.** Commissioners may not make promises on behalf of the Commission. Commissioners may be asked to explain a Commission policy or recommendation or to give their opinion about an issue as they meet and talk with constituents in the community. It is appropriate to give a brief overview of City policy and to refer to City staff for further information. It is inappropriate to overtly or implicitly promise Commission or Council action, or to promise City staff will do something specific (fix a pothole, plow a specific street, plant new flowers in the median, etc.).
- (b) **Personal Comments.** Commissioners agree to refrain from making personal comments about other Commissioners to constituents. It is acceptable to publicly disagree about an issue, but it is unacceptable to make derogatory comments about other Commissioners, their opinions and actions.

- (c) **Public-Private Considerations.** Commissioners may be observed by the community as they serve the city in their capacity as commissioners. Commissioner behaviors and comments serve as models for proper conduct in the City of Brooklyn Center. Commissioners agree to reflect honesty and respect for the dignity of each individual in every word, communication, (whether in social media or otherwise), and action taken by Commissioners, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is a serious and continuous responsibility.

D. Commissioner Conduct with Other Public Agencies

Commissioners will be as clear as possible when representing City or personal interests. If a Commissioner appears before another governmental agency or organization to give a statement on an issue, the Commissioner must clearly state:

1. If his or her statement reflects personal opinion or is the official stance of the City;
2. Whether this is the majority or minority opinion of the Commission. Even if the Commissioner represents his/her/their own personal opinions, the Commissioner must remember that the comments may reflect upon the City as an organization.

If the Commissioner is representing the City, the Commissioner must support and advocate the official City position on an issue, not a personal viewpoint.

E. Poor Conduct and Accountability Measures

1. Conduct

- (a) **Violations.** Commissioners who violate the Code of Respect will be subject to accountability measures. Any violations that potentially constitute criminal conduct shall be handled by the criminal justice system.
- (b) **Factors.** Factors that will be considered in determining the appropriate restorative measure or sanction include but are not limited to the following: seriousness of the violation and number of preceding violations.

2. Types of Accountability Measures

(a) **Restorative Measures**

Commissioners agree to engage in restorative measures prior to initiating sanctions for violations of the Code of Respect. Restorative measures include, but are not limited to:

- (i) Private meeting Commissioner and City Manager
- (ii) Informal Mediation between involved parties and Mediator
- (iii) Mediator issues recommendations (i.e. training, public apology, meeting suspension, etc.)
- (iv) Commissioner / Involved Parties to follow recommendations
- (v) If Commissioner refuses to follow recommendations, then the process moves to sanctions:

(b) Sanction

Commissioners may face commission removal for failing to engage in restorative measures or for continued violations of the Code of Respect.

3. Process**(a) Complaint / Reporting a Code of Respect Violation**

- (i) A Commissioner may report a potential Code of Respect violation by another Commissioner by bringing the matter to the attention of the official of their choice, Mayor, or the City Manager.
- (ii) A Brooklyn Center staff member may report a potential Code of Respect violation by a City Commissioner by bringing the matter to the attention of the City Manager or Human Resources Manager.
- (iii) If the potential violation involves the Mayor, it should be brought to the attention of the Mayor Pro Tem, City Manager, or City Attorney.
- (iv) A community member may report potential Code of Respect violations by a member of a City Commission to the Mayor, City Manager or any member of the City Council.

(b) Investigation

- (i) Triage. The Mayor and City Manager will gather initial information, consult with the City Attorney if necessary and decide how to move forward.
- (ii) Fact Finding. If necessary, the matter will be referred to the criminal justice system. The Mayor and City Manager will determine whether to pursue independent fact-finding or internal fact-finding.
- (iii) Possible Outcomes. After an investigation, the City Manager, in consultation with proper staff, will determine if the complaint is substantiated or unsubstantiated. A restorative solution will be sought prior to moving to a sanction.
 - (1) If Substantiated: The Commissioner will have a consultation with the City Manager, if that is unsuccessful, then the parties move to a graduated resolution process:
 - Informal mediation with harmed individuals and City designee (Mediator);
 - Mediator issues recommendations
 - Commissioner / Involved Parties to follow recommendations
 - If Commissioner refuses to follow recommendations, then the process moves to sanction.

(2) Sanction: (Last Resort)

- City Manager compiles redacted report for Council review (names, commission, other identifying information will be removed from the report)
- After review of the circumstances and recommendation, Council will use a standard form provided by the Administration to communicate their vote
- Administration will provide Council forms to Mayor
- Mayor will state Council vote on the record
- If Commissioner is removed from service, Commissioner will receive a letter of removal from the Council
- Commission Removal results in automatic bar from Commission Appointment for 2 years

(3) If Unsubstantiated: City Manager to work with City Attorney to determine resolution compliant with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act

4. Conduct During Meetings

- (a) **Inappropriate Statements.** For inappropriate statements or conduct by Commissioners occurring during a Commission meeting, a verbal correction by the Commission Chair will normally be the first step to address the matter, either during or after the meeting.
- (b) **Further Incidents.** Further incidents at the same meeting may be addressed by subsequent verbal corrections accompanied Repeated incidents can give rise to Chair not recognizing the offending Commissioner to speak. A Commissioner can request that the Chair take any of these actions against an offending Commissioner if the Chair has not done so on her/his/their own.

F. Ethics

1. Open Meeting Law

- (a) With certain exceptions, meetings of Council Commissions must be open the public. A meeting is a gathering of a majority of Commissioners at which City business is discussed. It is not necessary that action be taken for a gathering to constitute a “meeting.”
- (b) A meeting does not include chance social gatherings as long as public business is not discussed.
- (c) A majority of Commissioners should not communicate with each other by phone, email, in-person, or otherwise, to discuss City business.
- (d) Use of social media does not violate the open meeting law as long as social media use is accessible to all Members of the public.

See Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13D, for further information regarding the Open Meeting Law.

2. Gift Law

A City Commissioner cannot accept a gift from someone who has an interest in any matter involving the City.

A “gift” includes money, property, a service, a loan, forgiveness of a loan, or a promise of future employment.

A “gift” does not include:

- Campaign contributions;
- Items costing less than \$5;
- Items given to members of a group; the majority of whose members are not local officials;
- Gifts given by family members; or
- Food or beverages given at a reception, meal or meeting at which a Council Member is making a speech or answering questions as part of a program

See Minnesota Statutes, Section 471.895 City Charter, Section 14.04(A), and Section II, 2.95 of the Brooklyn Center Code of Policies for further information regarding the Gift Law and procedure.

3. Conflict of interest

(a) Commissioners cannot have a personal financial interest in a sale, lease, or contract with the City.

(b) Commissioners cannot participate in matters in which the Commissioner’s own personal interest, financial or otherwise, is so distinct from the public interest that the Commissioners cannot be expected to fairly represent the public’s interest when voting on the matter.

See Minnesota Statutes Section 471.87, and Section II, 2.95 of the Brooklyn Center Code of Policies of further information about Conflicts of Interest involving Public Officers.

As a public space, this park should be a place where all members of our community feel welcome, safe, and represented. However, the current name carries a painful history that does not reflect the values of inclusivity, respect, and equity that our city strives to uphold. Retaining a name rooted in racism sends an implicit message that such legacies are acceptable in our shared spaces.

Renaming the park to **Unity Park** would serve several important policy goals:

1. **Equity and Inclusion** – A new name will create a public space that welcomes all residents and aligns with the City’s broader equity and anti-discrimination initiatives.
2. **Community Trust** – Demonstrating responsiveness to resident concerns about harmful symbols will strengthen trust between the Council and the community.
3. **Precedent and Best Practices** – Numerous municipalities across the nation have successfully renamed parks, schools, and public facilities to eliminate racist references, showing this is a feasible and widely accepted step in responsible governance.
4. **Future Legacy** – Naming the park “Unity” establishes a forward-looking identity that celebrates cohesion and shared values, rather than memorializing past injustices.

Renaming the park to *Unity Park* would send a powerful message of healing and progress. “Unity” represents togetherness, resilience, and the celebration of diversity—qualities that define our city and that we should proudly reflect in our public landmarks. This new name would honor the contributions of all residents and provide future generations with a space that reflects our shared commitment to justice and community.

-The Robbinsdale Human Rights Commission