



**New Brighton Equity Commission  
Agenda  
Upper Level | Conference Room  
New Brighton City Hall 803 Old Hwy 8 NW, New Brighton , MN  
6:30 PM September 18, 2025**

Members of the Equity Commission will attend the meeting in person unless eligible to attend remotely per MN Stat. 13D.02.

To participate in this meeting, members of the public may:

- **Attend the meeting in person.**
- **Watch the meeting electronically.** Tune into CTV Channel 8023 (CenturyLink) or Channel 16 (Comcast). To observe the meeting as a livestream or a webcast, visit [NBMN.info/View-A-Meeting](http://NBMN.info/View-A-Meeting)

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Kami Miller	Commissioner Carlos Herrera
Vice Chair Cathy Forbes	Commissioner Michael Postle
Commissioner Kisten Thompson	Commissioner Melissa Spiess
Commissioner Ellen Weber	Commissioner Sophie Jung
Commissioner Liz Erstad-Hicks	

**II. Approval of Agenda**

**III. Approval of Past Minutes**

- a. August 21, 2025

**IV. Business Items**

- a. DEI Commission Forum Preparation

**V. City Staff Update**

**VI. Chair Update**

**VII. City Council Update**

**VIII. Adjournment**

- a. Next Meeting: October 16, 2025



**MINUTES**  
**New Brighton Equity Commission**  
**Regular Meeting – August 21, 2025**  
**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 Carlos Herrera, Liz Erstad-Hicks, Sophie Jung (arrived at 6:45 p.m.), Kami Miller, Michael Postle, Kisten Thompson and Ellen Weber.

Members Absent: Commissioners Cathy Forbes, and Melissa Spiess.

Also Present: DEI Coordinator Hue Schlieu and EDC Commissioner Bruce Howard

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Weber to approve the agenda as presented.

Approved 6-0

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Commissioner Erstad-Hicks to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2025 meeting.

Approved 6-0

**V. Business Items**

**A. Metro Transit Services**

Schlieu stated community members have expressed interest and concerns regarding the accessibility of public transit in New Brighton. Council is committed to learning more about public transit and explore in ways the City can advocate for right-sizing of routes and stops. Equity Commission hopes to learn more about Metro Transit's approach to provide guidance for next steps.

Ben Picone, Metro Transit, provided the Commission with a presentation on how Metro Transit makes decisions in the transit planning world. He commented on what type of transit services are appropriate for the different transit market areas. It was noted census data helps assist Metro

Transit in making route/transit decisions. He further described the transit services that were available in New Brighton.

Reva Chamblis, Met Council District 2 Representative, introduced herself to the Commission noting she serves as the Vice Chair of the Met Council. She reported both equity and transportation were priorities for her.

Mr. Picone discussed how ridership was reviewed in order to assist in making adjustments to routes. He commented on how Metro Transit was working to put service information in the major languages spoken in each area of the metro area.

Rachel Kagel, Metro Transit, requested feedback from the Commission on how Metro Transit could better serve New Brighton specifically.

Commissioner Herrera recommended route and bussing information be available in other languages. Ms. Kagel commented on the language line that was available through Metro Transit.

Mr. Picone spoke to the short term transit changes that would be coming to New Brighton in 2026. It was noted both Metro Mobility and Transit Link were available in the community. He described how travel patterns have changed since COVID and the vision for Network Now through 2027 was reviewed with the Commission. The new areas being covered and improved route frequency were discussed. He reported Metro Transit was working to market the new routes and services that were available to riders. Further information was provided to the changes coming via Network Now for New Brighton.

Schlieu asked how residents are made aware of route changes.

Jonathan Hahn, Metro Transit, discussed how riders can sign up for rider alerts on Metro Transit's website.

EDC Commissioner Bruce Howard introduced himself to the group noting he worked at Metro Transit for 30 years. He explained he has been speaking with the Mayor regarding the transit disparity and lack of ease to travel in New Brighton. It was his hope the City could continue to work with Metro Transit to address this concern in order to promote better transportation and transit routes through the community. He suggested a group of Commissioners from different Commissions and Councilmembers come together in order to address this concern.

Mr. Picone commented on what the City can do to create transit supportive environments.

Ms. Chamblis reported the Met Council has livable community grants that cities can apply for to assist with creating housing developments with transit.

Discussion included:

- It was discussed how transit was being used more for errands mid-day and on weekends.
- The Commission inquired if there were ways to make the community more appealing for transit.
- The benefits of the metro micro services were discussed with the Commission.
- The Commission stated they greatly appreciated the A Line.
- Metro Transit asked that the City continue to provide feedback on how they can better meet the needs of the community.
- The Commission suggested a text for safety or call line be created for riders in need of police resources or other assistance.

- The Commission recommended lighting near bus routes and throughout the community be further considered by the City.
- Metro Transit described how they keep their bus stops clear of snow in the winter months. It was noted Metro Transit has an adopt a stop program in place as well where individuals can adopt and assist in maintaining a bus stop.
- The benefits of Metro Transit micro services were further discussed.
- The Commission thanked Metro Transit for the detailed presentation.

**VI. City Staff Update – Hue Schlieu, DEI Coordinator**

Schlieu stated she spent 20 hours training in the new youth community connectors (YCC’s) this week. It was her hope the YCC’s would assist with improving communication services on behalf of the City with the community. She explained the Council recently discussed commissioner pay and stated she was uncertain if this item would be included in the 2026 budget. She indicated the Commissioner Forum would be held in Minnetonka on September 30. She discussed the upcoming Open House that would be held on Wednesday, August 27 and noted she needed one more volunteer to serve at this event.

**VII. Chair Update – Kami Miller**

Chair Miller encouraged the Commission to forward potential agenda topics to her to assist with setting future meeting agendas.

**VIII. City Council Update – Emily Dunsworth**

There was no report from the City Council.

**IX. Adjournment – Next Meeting: September 18, 2025**

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hue Schlieu  
DEI Coordinator



<b>Agenda Section:</b>	<b>Business Items</b>
<b>Report Date:</b>	<b>09/12/2025</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>September 18, 2025</b>

**REQUEST FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION: DEI Commission Forum Preparation**

<b>Action Requested:</b>	
Public Hearing	Motion
<u>Discussion X</u>	Informational
<b>Form of Action:</b>	
Resolution	Ordinance
Contract/Agreement	<u>N/A or Other X</u>
<b>Votes Needed:</b>	
3 Votes	4 Votes
5 Votes	<u>N/A X</u>

<b>Summary Statement:</b>	<p>New Brighton Equity Commission hosted the first annual Equity Commission Forum in 2024. The forum was meant to provide space for Commissioners across the metro area to come together to ask questions, share learning, and receive more context on the potential impact that an Equity Commission can have. The event was such a success that there was a request for an annual occurrence. Minnetonka offered to host this year's forum.</p> <p>The goal of the meeting is to prepare for potential discussion topics to maximize the Commissioner's time and learning at the event.</p>
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<b>Recommendations:</b>	None
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<b>Applicable Deadlines:</b>	None
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<b>Community Impact:</b>	Learning effective strategies will benefit the community that New Brighton's Equity Commission serves.
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<b>Legislative History:</b>	None
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<b>Strategic Priority:</b>	Financial Sustainability	Staff Capabilities
	Economic Development	<b><u>Community Engagement &amp; Belonging X</u></b>
	City Assets	N/A

<b>Fiscal Impact:</b>	<b>Financial Impact: Is there a financial consideration?</b>		<b><u>No X</u></b>	Yes \$
	<b>Financing Sources:</b>	Budgeted	Budget Modification	
	New Revenue	Use of Reserves	Other	

<b>Attachments:</b>	1. DEI Commission Forum Preparation
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# Potential Questions

## 1. Welcome & Context Setting

Recap key takeaways from the first forum.

## 2. Metrics & Accountability

- How do you define and measure success?
- What tools or practices (reports, dashboards, surveys) have worked?
- What challenges do you face reporting to Council or community?
- How do you ensure transparency and accountability in your work?
- What reporting structures (dashboards, annual reports, surveys, etc.) have been most effective?

## 3. Work Plans & Looking Ahead to 2026

- Share highlights of your commission's current work plan.
- What's working, what's challenging?
- **Looking ahead:** What priorities are your commissions focusing on while planning for 2026?
- How is your commission aligning your plan with City Council or community needs?
- What process did you use to develop your plan?
- What challenges have you faced in implementing your plan?

## 4. Cross-City Collaboration

- How could commissions across different cities support one another?
- What issues transcend city boundaries?
- How can commissions share resources or coordinate regionally?

## 5. Navigating Political Headwinds

- What barriers exist in today's political climate?
- How do you maintain momentum despite pushback or limited resources?
- How do you balance being advisory with community expectations for bold action?
- What strategies have helped keep momentum despite resistance?
- What keeps you engaged in this work?

## 6. Community Engagement & Trust-Building

- What strategies build authentic trust?
- How do you engage historically excluded groups?
- How do you handle pushback or criticism from the public?
- How can commissions ensure authentic, ongoing dialogue rather than one-off events?
- What role do storytelling, community partnerships, or lived-experience panels play?

## 7. Closing & Next Steps

- Synthesize key themes and share back highlights from tables.
- Identify collective **2026 focus areas**.
- Discuss "save the date" and city host for Forum #3