



**New Brighton Equity Commission
Agenda
Upper Level | Conference Room
New Brighton City Hall 803 Old Hwy 8 NW, New Brighton , MN
5:00 PM May 21, 2026**

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

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Kami Miller	Commissioner Methok Namsey
Vice-Chair Cathy Forbes	Commissioner Michael Postle
Commissioner Kisten Thompson	Commissioner Melissa Spiess
Commissioner Liz Erstad-Hicks	Commissioner Kristan Clow
Commissioner Laura Connolly	

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Past Minutes

- a. April 16, 2026

IV. Business Items

- a. Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion in New Brighton

V. City Staff Update

VI. Chair Update

VII. City Council Update

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Next Meeting: June 18, 2026



MINUTES
New Brighton Equity Commission
Regular Meeting – April 16, 2026
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 Kristan Clow, Laura Connolly, Liz Erstad-Hicks, Sophie Jung, Kami Miller, Methok Namsey, Michael Postle and Kisten Thompson.

Members Absent: Commissioners Cathy Forbes and Melissa Spiess

Also Present: DEI Coordinator Hue Schlieu and Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development Ben Gozola

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Chair Miller, seconded by Commissioner Thompson to approve the agenda as amended adding Item VB – Work Plan Discussion.

Approved 8-0

IV. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Thompson requested the meeting times be adjusted to reflect the meeting began at 5:00 p.m. and adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Postle to approve the minutes from the March 19, 2026 meeting.

Approved 8-0

V. Business Items

A. Housing Action Plan Policy #2: DRAFT Inclusionary Housing Policy Review

Schlieu stated Breanne Kennedy from Thrive, LLC, attended the Council Worksession on 4/7/26 to review DRAFT Policy #2: an Inclusionary Housing Policy, as part of the City’s ongoing Housing Action Plan efforts. It was noted the EDC provided feedback on this draft policy on 4/1/26, and the Equity Commission will weigh at this meeting. She explained the City of New Brighton has been committed to advancing housing for several years. The Comprehensive Plan,

Housing Study, and Housing Action Plan have set into motion the implementation of several policies to address housing concerns. In late 2025, the City Council set forth a number of policy priorities for housing, and that direction included discussion and consideration of an inclusionary housing policy.

Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development Gozola explained “Inclusionary Housing Policy” is a broad term that refers to (usually) a city-led ordinance that either requires or incentivizes the development of affordable housing units within a larger, market-rate project. It emphasizes that a certain amount of affordable housing and/or below-market rate units are needed when market-rate housing is being constructed. Several cities in the metro have recently adopted or are considering various forms of inclusionary housing policies, including Bloomington, Shorewood, Roseville, Little Canada, Brooklyn Park and Arden Hills. The proposed draft language before Council on 4/7/26 includes the following provisions:

- If public money or land write-downs are requested for a housing project, the ordinance requires 10% of units in any larger development (over 20 units) to be affordable at 60% AMI (rental) and 115% AMI (owner).
- Lists additional incentives for developers to add income-restricted units, including density bonuses, height bonuses, parking reduction fee waivers, and land write-downs.
- Includes a mechanism for enforcing the requirement (Plan and Agreement) which requires staff review and oversight

Discussion included:

- Staff provided the Commission with a break down on how tax increment financing (TIF) can be used to assist with completing developments in the community.
- The Commission questioned how staff arrived at 20 units as a starting point. Staff explained this was the number of units used by surrounding communities.
- The Commission asked what other tools were available to developers besides TIF. Staff reported State and Federal dollars were available to assist with affordable housing units.
- The Commission inquired if the structure for this program could be adjusted over time. Staff indicated this would be allowed, noting costs for construction, interest rates and the cost for borrowing may change over time.
- The Commission wanted to ensure the affordable units were equal in size and quality to the other units that were developed.
- Staff provided the Commission with an update on the downtown campus planning that was underway. It was noted staff was pursuing grants to assist with this work.

B. Work Plan Discussion

Schlieu reviewed the proposed work plan for 2026 and requested feedback from the Commission on how to proceed.

Discussion included:

- The Commission members introduced themselves to the group.
- The Commission discussed the work the City was doing for the downtown vision and new Civic Capus. It was noted staff was gathering feedback from the public at this time.
- The Commission supported having a continual presence at the farmers market in order to introduce the public to the Equity Commission.
- The Commission supported the City hosting a listening session in the coming year.
- The Commission suggested staff look into using AI to see what the communication trends are in the community.

- The Commission discussed the potential of completing a community survey with equity specific questions.
- The Commission request the Public Safety Department provide the Equity Commission with an update.
- The Commission supported staff providing the group with an update on the Youth Community Connectors.
- The Commission supported finding more ways to elevate youth voices and suggested quarterly meetings be held at the high schools or that a commission be considered that was entirely youth members.

VI. City Staff Update – Hue Schlieu, DEI Coordinator

Schlieu stated the Council discuss putting a moratorium in place for data centers. She indicated the City would be sending a survey out to the manufactured home community. She explained the Tibet Fest would be held on Sunday, May 10 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Long Lake Regional Park. She noted a YCC Celebration would be held on Monday, June 8 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center. She stated a Community Fair would be held on Monday, June 22 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Irondale High School. She indicated the Hansen Park Open House would be held on Tuesday, July 21.

VII. Chair Update – Kami Miller

Chair Miller had nothing additional to report.

VIII. City Council Update – Emily Dunsworth

There was no report from the City Council.

IX. Adjournment – Next Meeting: May 21, 2026

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hue Schlieu
DEI Coordinator



Agenda Section:	Business Items
Meeting Date:	May 21, 2026

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ITEM DESCRIPTION: Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion in New Brighton

Action Requested: Discussion

Form of Action: N/A or Other

Votes Needed: N/A

Summary Statement:	<p>The Equity Commission serves in an advisory role to help identify and address issues that impact equity within the community, including diversity, inclusion, representation, privileges, intercultural relations, race relations, cultural place-making and other factors that shape outcomes for historically underrepresented and marginalized populations. This discussion is intended to ground the Commission's work in current, local, and lived observations of inequity across the city. It also provides an opportunity to elevate concerns, experiences, and perspectives shared with Commissioners by residents and community members. The goal is to identify emerging needs, recognize ongoing barriers to equitable participation and access, and explore ways the City can strengthen policies, practices, and community engagement efforts to better serve all residents.</p>
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Recommendations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share direct observations, experiences, or patterns Commissioners are noticing within the community as it relates to equity, inclusion, accessibility, and belonging. • Elevate concerns, feedback, or lived experiences shared by residents and community stakeholders. • Discuss opportunities to improve accessibility, representation, and inclusive practices across City initiatives.
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Applicable Deadlines:	N/A
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Community Impact:	Discussion may validate great inclusive work and elevate areas of improvement so that the City can make informed decisions on what efforts to continue, change, or stop.
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Legislative History:	
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Strategic Priority:	<u>Community Engagement & Belonging</u>
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Fiscal Impact:	Financial Consideration?	<u>No</u>
	Revenue/Expenditure Amount:	\$
	Financing Source:	<u>N/A</u>
	Notes:	

Attachments:	
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