

## Valparaiso Human Relations Council Minutes — April 23, 2019

Present: Jeff Balon, John Seibert, Bill Lewis, Alex Clanton, Laurie Mullet, Judith Neville, Heath Carter, Roxanne Mendez Johnson, Sam Burrow-Flak, Abdus Zubair, Willow Walsh, John Albers

1. The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission presented on its NWI 2050 transportation plan, inviting residents to come to the Helge Center on Tues. April 25th at 6pm for public comment on the plan.
2. Heath Carter offered updates and announcements regarding the Cultural Arts Grant which accepted final applications for this cycle on April 15, 2019, the IHEDA Community Development block grants, and ongoing collaborations between the HRC and VPD for diversifying and increasing representation in the department.
3. The Council Elected a new Chair, Roxanne Mendez Johnson, and new Vice-Chair, John Albers unanimously.
4. Roxanne Mendez Johnson invited all council members to share their hopes and goals of the council for 2019. Interests included diversifying VPD, being more welcoming to our veterans, continuing to monitor VHS's decisions to approve/ deny extracurricular organizations, monitoring the removal of Valparaiso University's minority seats on Student Senate, prioritizing the creation of affordable housing in Valparaiso as we continue to see new development, and helping high school students connect with skills-based trade occupations.
5. The meeting was opened for public comment and two residents spoke out to thank the council for the interests raised and confirm the location of the NWI 2050 public commentary meeting.
6. The meeting was adjourned.