

Bismarck Human Relations Committee Meeting

Date: October 17, 2016

Location: City County Building, 221 N. Fifth Street, Bismarck, ND

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 5:20 pm

Roll Call:

Members Present: Karel Sovak, Will Kincaid, Krista Harju, Amy Ingersoll-Johnson, Rissa Williams, Rochelle Williams (new), Bernie Botone (new)

Members Absent: None

Guest Present: Gloria David, City of Bismarck liaison, Breann, guest of Will

HRC Mission: The mission was read.

Due to the addition of two new board members, committee members and new members exchanged introductions.

Acceptance of Minutes (September): Approved (Krista –motion, Amy – second)

Brief comments by new member: Rochelle and Bernie explained their reasoning for wanting to be a part of the committee. They are committed to the mission and willing to assist to bring greater awareness on all issues relating to human relations in our community.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Diversity University update:

Krista presented an update on the event that is being held as our fourth quarter Diversity University. Posters and tickets for An Evening in India were presented and the event will take place November 10th. Partnering with the Legacy High School Culinary Arts program, the committee will host a cultural event, with the assistance of the Seths. Tickets are available through the city offices, at a cost \$25 and be limited to 48, due to logistics of the event and the culinary program. Tickets will be provided through cash or check only. It was agreed that the Seth's would be given two complementary tickets for their work with this event. This is being billed as the Bismarck Human Relations Committee (BHRC) signature event into the future. Media relations will consist of PSAs, request through Dakota Media Access, and Gloria will connect with KFYR Café, Noon show and Morning show to get additional coverage. Discussion also focused on gaining ways to provide scholarship dollars for students with other educational events. Karel indicated we are not that type of committee – and Gloria reminded the committee of the BHRC mission and purpose as stated in City ordinance, to protect and promote the personal dignity of all Bismarck citizens and eliminate any discriminatory barriers that prevent them from reaching their full human potential, seeking to make education and compliance a meaningful and visible strategy to recognize the value of a diverse community. Currently, BHRC will remain an arm for educating the public. It was moved by Will and seconded by Krista to provide complementary tickets to the Seths. All were in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Board members planning to attend are Krista (plus 1), Amy, Rissa, Will (plus 2), Karel (plus 1), Bernie.

Other Business: Discussion focused on partnering with other groups for future events in which BHRC can be a part. Krista indicated English as a Second Language (ESL) program has a need for food, perhaps a food drive can be conducted, or BRHC could partner with groups to run the food drive. Also discussed for new members our Essay/Poetry contest to be held this spring. Group will continue to think about projects which can be undertaken by the committee. Gloria will look into financial procedures regarding future BHRC engagements that include the exchange of money.

Upcoming events: Discussion was on an event that passed – North Dakota Humanities Council “Think and Drink” held at Laughing Sun – something the group felt BHRC should be a part of in the future. Rissa reported on the city and state proclamation of Indigenous People’s Day and Krista reported on Dakota Outright event coming up on Oct 19th – delivering safe space tool kits. Rochelle agreed to chair a sub-committee to work with UTTC, University of Mary and BSC on a project (Harlem Renaissance) and will get others involved and keep the committee informed. Committee was asked to be thinking of Poetry/Essay contest dates, as well as first quarter Diversity University topics and/or partnerships

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, November 21, 2016 p.m. at the City County Building, 221 N. Fifth Street, Bismarck, ND

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