

Bismarck

Mayor's Committee

On

Human Relations

Annual Report



2012 Bismarck Human Relations Committee

Jane Halverson, Chair	Karla Buzick, Vice Chair
Geraldine Teevens	Brant Malsam
Brenda Finn	David Mau
Sunanda Jain	Sharon Korsmo
Greg Thiboutot	

MISSION of COMMITTEE

The mission of the Bismarck Human Relations Committee is 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. We seek to make education and compliance a meaningful and visible strategy as we work to recognize the value of a diverse community.

GOALS of COMMITTEE

The Bismarck Human Relations Committee has the following goals and objectives as defined in its Strategic Plan:

1. To exhibit leadership in the areas of civil and human rights
 - a. The Committee will be comprised of individuals that represent and are knowledgeable of diverse populations.
 - b. The Committee members will practice and model action that exemplify nondiscrimination, acceptance and respect of diversity.
2. To educate the public about civil and human rights
 - a. The Committee will implement a public education plan to identify and address issues.
 - b. The Committee will actively plan, sponsor and participate in events that promote and celebrate diversity.
 - c. The Committee will serve as a resource for educational materials.
3. To identify issues of principal concern in the area of civil and human rights
 - a. The Committee will provide access for public input.
 - b. The Committee will prioritize issues based on input received.
4. To recommend priorities and objectives about issues of community concern to the City Commission
 - a. The Committee will serve as a liaison in issues of civil and human rights between the community and the City Commissioners.
5. To advocate for compliance with federal and state laws regarding civil and human rights, including North Dakota Century Code Chapters 14-02.4 (human rights) & 14-02.5 (housing)
 - a. The Committee will provide information about current laws through multiple formats.
 - b. The Committee will maintain data regarding civil and human rights issues.

ESTABLISHMENT of COMMITTEE

Bismarck Ordinance 5208 created the Bismarck Human Relations Committee and received final passage October 8, 2002. The Committee's purpose is to promote acceptance and respect for diversity through educational programs and activities and to discourage all forms of discrimination including protected class discrimination, ADA violations or other statutory or constitutional violations (Chapter 2-11).

APPOINTMENT to COMMITTEE

The Committee consists of nine members who serve without pay. Member appointment is by the President of the Board of City Commissioners, and subject to confirmation by the Board of City Commissioners. Appointees serve three-year terms.

2012 & 2013 ACTIVITIES of COMMITTEE

In September of 2012, the Bismarck Human Relations Committee co-hosted with Bismarck State College's Embracing Diversity Committee "Diversity University", Putting "U" in Community, a series of three discussions, which began on Thursday, September 13. Each event was held at the Bismarck State College Student Union Prairie Room. The events were free of charge and open to the public. This is the third year for the Diversity University series and the second year of the partnership with BSC. Topics presented were as follows:

1. ***81 Days and Counting: My Journey Back*** – A presentation by an exercise/eating disorder survivor, advocate and educator for eating disorders, self-esteem, recovery, healthy body image and sexual orientation featuring Troy Roness, a candidate in a graduate program at Minot State University studying Education, Cognitive Science and Mind/Brain Research.
2. ***Bullying and Cyber-bullying*** – A panel discussion and open forum on the effects of bullying and cyber-bullying facilitated by Brian Palecek from United Tribes Technical College, featuring Nicole Weiss from the Abused Adult Resource Center, Tim Hathaway from Prevent Child Abuse ND, Teresa Carrigan from the Police Youth Bureau, and Mike Heilman from Bismarck Public Schools.
3. ***Challenges and Opportunities in Housing*** – A panel discussion and open forum on the housing needs in Bismarck and West Central ND, with particular attention focused on the specific needs of diverse populations, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly. This open forum was facilitated by Rose Stoller from The Consensus Council, Inc. and featured Tony Weiler the N.D. Commissioner of Labor, Royce Schultze, from the Dakota Center for Independent Living, representatives from the Housing Alliance of ND and the AARP of North Dakota, and Mike Anderson from the ND Housing Finance Agency.

This event has been publicly promoted through various means and continues to grow with each passing year. The committee will continue to promote this series and work toward awareness on a variety of issues. Dates and topics of the upcoming 2013 series are not yet set.

In January 2013 the Human Relations Committee held its Human Rights Essay and Poetry contest. This year the committee decided to expand this contest from the usual Grades 4-6 to also include Grades 7-9. The purpose of this contest is to foster increased awareness about human rights amongst area students.

The Human Relations Committee elected a sub-committee to review the essays and poems. The contest winners were selected at the March meeting and on April 11th Mayor Warford, Gloria David and Karla Buzick travelled to each winner's respective school to present the awards.

Cassy Flemmer from Dorothy Moses Elementary School was the winner of the poetry contest and Zac Cave from Cathedral School was the winner of the essay portion of the contest. Both students were in the Grades 4-6 category. Unfortunately we did not receive any entries for the Grades 7-9 portion.

Both students were presented with a plaque from Mayor Warford on behalf of the Human Relations Committee.



Pictured left to right: Karla Buzick (Human Rights Committee), Madaline Flemmer (Cassy's Sister), Carol Mader (Cassy's Mom), Cassy Flemmer (Poetry Winner), Ms. Barb Fix (Cassy's Teacher), Mayor John Warford

Fighting For..... by: Cassy Flemmer

Rosa Parks gave me a spark

To write a poem about our home

I can't believe it's really true

That they'd hit someone just like you

Brought to this country on a boat

No rights at all, no rights to vote

Being beaten, bought and sold

Some of them only ten years old

Had to teach their kids to read and write

With little lamps in the night

**AND FREEDOM TO ME WILL ALWAYS BE WORTH
FIGHTING FOR**



Pictured from left to right: Mrs. Nancy Hopfauf (Zac's Teacher at Cathedral School), Jeff Cave (Zac's Dad), Mayor John Warford, Zac Cave (Essay Winner), Deborah Cave (Zac's Mom), Karla Buzick (Human Rights Committee)

Fighting Against Racism

I think human dignity is where all humans should be treated with the same amount of fairness and respect. It does not matter if your black or white American or African everybody is created equally. I think it is just about what is inside of the body not the outside.

Human dignity is not... when people get treated different because they look different or talk different. I think Martin Luther King was a perfect example of this. He didn't like being treated badly so he stood up for it.

Martin Luther was born in Atlanta, Georgia 1929. He was treated different because he was black. He was known for stopping racism by giving the "I Have a Dream" speech. The speech was gave in March 1963. King was the leader of the African-American Civil Rights Movement.

I think human dignity plays a very important role in my life because I want others and myself to be treated with respect. Next time before you do something think if it is respectful.

*Zac
6th Grade
Cathedral*

In **March 2013**, the Human Relations Committee launched its annual Humanitarian Award. This award seeks nominations for an individual, business or non-profit organization that has exhibited leadership in the areas of human and civil rights with a focus upon recognizing those that educate, identify issues and address human rights issues. The deadline for applications was April 12 and unfortunately there was only one application submitted. The HRC has elected to extend the deadline for this event in the hopes to generate more interest.

GOING FORWARD

The Human Relations Committee continues to work on building collaborative relationships with other entities within the community. As with any volunteer group, we work hard trying to get attendance at events as well as encourage community involvement in the various contests we sponsor. Gloria David is a constant presence at our meetings and she does a fabulous job of keeping us on task as well as being the “keeper” of information, both past and present. We certainly appreciate her hard work and devotion to this committee! We look forward to the remainder of the year and hope to continue our relentless work in the area of human relations.

COMMITTEE MEETING TIMES & LOCATION

The Bismarck Human Relations Committee meets on the third Monday of each month (except on holidays) at 5:15pm at the City/County Office Building, First Floor Conference Room, 221 North 5th Street, Bismarck, ND. Meetings are open to the public and accept public comment.

Diversity University

Putting "U" in Community

FREE and the public is encouraged to attend

Thursday, September 13

81 Days & Counting: My Journey Back

BSC Student Union / Prairie Room / 7 p.m.

A presentation by an exercise/eating disorder survivor, advocate and educator for eating disorders, self-esteem, recovery, healthy body image and sexual orientation featuring Troy Roness, a candidate in a graduate program at Minot State University studying Education, Cognitive Science and Mind/Brain Research. (M. Ed., C/S)

Thursday, September 20

Bullying and Cyber-bullying

BSC Student Union / Prairie Room / 7 p.m.

A panel discussion and open forum on the effects of bullying and cyber-bullying facilitated by Brian Palecek from United Tribes Technical College, featuring Nicole Weiss from the Abused Adult Resource Center, Tim Hathaway from Prevent Child Abuse ND, Teresa Carrigan from the Police Youth Bureau, and Mike Heilman from Bismarck Public Schools.

Thursday, September 27

Challenges and Opportunities in Housing

BSC Student Union / Prairie Room / 7 p.m.

A panel discussion and open forum on the housing needs in Bismarck and West Central North Dakota, with particular attention focused on the specific needs of diverse populations, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly. This open forum will be facilitated by Rose Stoller from the Consensus Council and will feature Tony Weiler the ND Commissioner of Labor; Royce Schultze from the Dakota Center for Independent Living; representatives from the Housing Alliance of ND and the America Association of Retired Persons; and Mike Anderson from the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency.

Diversity University is sponsored by:





HUMAN RIGHTS ESSAY & POETRY CONTEST

***CALLING ALL BISMARCK STUDENTS!**

- Grades 4-6: Write about a person or idea that fosters respect for Human Rights

- Grades 7-9: Write about your concept of leadership for Human Rights

***CHOOSE TO WRITE AN ESSAY OR A POEM ON HUMAN RIGHTS!**

All entries must be postmarked or e-mailed and received by the Human Relations Committee by 5:00 p.m. February 11, 2013. Please limit entries to one page.

Two outstanding entries from each age level will be selected.

The Bismarck Human Relations Committee (HRC) sponsors this contest to heighten awareness of human rights amongst students in the community. The mission of the Human Relations Committee is to protect and promote the personal dignity of all Bismarck citizens and to eliminate any discriminatory barriers that prevent them from reaching their full human potential.

OUTSTANDING ENTRIES WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT A CEREMONY MID-MARCH 2013 WHERE BISMARCK MAYOR JOHN WARFORD WILL PRESENT THE SELECTED ENTRANTS WITH A SPECIAL AWARD. THE SELECTED ESSAY OR POEM WILL BE DISPLAYED ON THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WEB PAGE*

www.bismarck.org

*All submitted items and content become the property of the City of Bismarck and may be used for the non-commercial purpose of illustration, display or publication.

Submit entries to:

City of Bismarck
Human Relations Committee
221 N. 5th St.
Bismarck, ND
58506-5503
E-mail: g david@nd.gov



Students are encouraged to visit the United Nations website <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/> to learn more about "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights" and related documents. Additional information about Human Rights Day may also be found at <http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/2012/about.shtml>