



Bismarck Human Relations Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2021

The Bismarck Human Relations Committee (HRC) met on March 22, 2021, at 5:15 PM in the Bismarck City/County Building, Mayor’s Conference Room, 4th Floor, 221 N 5th Street. Chair Andahl presided.

Call to Order

Chair Andahl called the meeting to order at 5:21 PM.

Roll Call

Committee members present were Darcy Andahl, Kollie Flomo, Jason Grueneich, Brandi Hardy, Krista Rausch, Manisha Sawhney, Trevor Vannett, and Sargianna Wutzke. Whitnie Olsen and Jason Tomanek with the City of Bismarck were also present.

Committee member Annette Martel was absent.

HRC Mission

The mission was read by Chair Andahl.

Acceptance of Minutes

Chair Andahl called for consideration of the minutes of the February 22, 2021 Bismarck Human Relations Committee meeting.

Motion: Brandi Hardy made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2021 meeting as presented. Sargianna Wutzke seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved with committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion.

Public Comment

There was no public present.

Municipal Quality Index Rating

Whitnie Olsen provided a brief background relating to the municipal quality index rating. Brandi Hardy said she would like to take on the project. Krista Rausch and Jason Grueneich volunteered to help Committee member Hardy.

Student Essay/Poetry Contest

Whitnie Olsen provided the committee with an update on the student essay and poetry contest. At this time there have been zero submissions. Ms. Olsen notes the City Administration Department will continue to promote the contest on the City’s website and social media platforms.

Bismarck Global Neighbors: Immigrant Advisory Committee

Kollie Flomo provided the committee with an update regarding the Bismarck Global Neighbors Diversity and Inclusion Partnership. He has been in contact with Leah Hargrove and she gave Committee member Flomo a list of concerns from the immigrant population. The committee held discussion as to their role with the project and if they would be able to proceed with the partnership. It was noted that the type of work being done by the Global Neighbors organization, although important, does not align with the



role of the HRC which is more closely aligned with education and outreach to recognize the value of a diverse community.

Motion: Krista Rausch made a motion to remove this item from the agenda and discontinue work with the project. Trevor Vannett seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved with committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion.

Humanitarian Award

Whitnie Olsen presented the 11 nominations that were received for the Humanitarian Award to the committee. The committee reviewed the nominations and discussed their merits.

Motion: Krista Rausch made a motion to nominate Dakota OutRight for the organization award. Brandi Hardy seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved with committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion.

Motion: Jason Grueneich made a motion to nominate Rachael Howard for the individual award. Krista Rausch seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved with committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion.

2021 HRC Goals

- Student Liaisons: Begin correspondence with schools May 2021
- Diversity University
- Speaking to Service Clubs/Committees
 - Whitnie Olsen provided a list of service clubs in the community which was requested at the February 22, 2021 meeting.
- Engaging in Community Events

Other Business

Brandi Hardy addressed the committee regarding meeting location. She suggested moving from virtual back to in person meetings. The group discussed holding future meetings in person and were all in favor of the idea. Going forward meetings will be held in person unless directed otherwise by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Andahl. The next meeting of the Bismarck Human Relations Committee will be held at 5:15 PM. on Monday, April 19, 2021 in the Mayor's Conference Room of the Bismarck City/County Building.

Reported by Whitnie Olsen