



Bismarck Human Relations Committee

1/23/2023 - Minutes

Call To Order

Chair Grueneich called the meeting to order at 5:18 PM.

Roll Call

Committee members present were Gabrielle Abouassaly, Geraldine Ambe, Darcy Andahl, Jason Grueneich, Sashay Schettler, and Sargianna Wutzke. Jason Tomanek and Whitnie Olsen with the City of Bismarck were also present.

Committee members Thea Jorgensen, Nicole Ralph, and Carl Young were absent.

HRC Mission

Vice Chair Grueneich read the mission statement.

1. Public Comment

There was no public for comment.

2. Approval Of Meeting Minutes

Chair Grueneich called for the consideration of the December 19, 2022, meeting minutes.

Motion: Darcy Andahl motioned to approve the December 19, 2022, meeting minutes as presented. Sashay Schettler seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved, with committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion.

3. These Are Your Neighbors Podcast Update

Sargianna Wutzke provided an update to the committee regarding the first recording of the "These Are Your Neighbors" podcast. The first guest of the podcast was Bill Patrie. Future recordings are set for February 8, 2023, and guests include Jasmine Tambo Tosseth-Smith with African Nomad Catering & Studio and Megan Mann from Hope Manor. The group discussed possible guests for future programs, which include Sister Kathleen Atkinson, Roxanne Romanick, Trevor Vannette, Kurt Snyder, Geraldine Ambe, and Jason Grueneich.

Chair Grueneich requested that committee members support the program through the generation of topics and guests and the development of questions and content. He closed by asking committee members to send their suggestions to City staff before February 8, 2023. Chair Grueneich asked the committee to bring new topics and guest ideas to the February 27, 2023, meeting for discussion and schedule development.

4. 2023 HRC Goals

The committee discussed goals for 2023.

- The consensus of the group was to participate in four partnered events that align with the mission of the HRC throughout the year.
- The group will host one event in 2023. The goal would be for the event to take place near the end of October or early November to align with the committee's anniversary. The group discussed having all podcast guests be invited to participate in a forum at the event. The group will also use this event to present the 2022 Humanitarian Award.
- The committee agreed to continue providing an annual report during the first quarter of each year. Committee members Andahl, Grueneich, Schettler, and Wutzke will work together to prepare and present the report.
- The committee agreed to continue working to increase the National Human Rights Coalition Municipal Equality Index rating for Bismarck.
- The group will continue production and distribution of the "These Are Your Neighbors" podcast.

5. Other Business

- Introductions - The committee members introduced themselves and provided information about the committee to the newly appointed member Gabrielle Abouassaly. Ms. Abouassaly introduced herself and shared details about the work she does as a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Consultant at Sanford Health.
- 2023 Legislative Discussion
 - The group discussed a variety of proposed bills and offered recommendations to City Administration for its consideration and reporting to the City Commission.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 PM.