



Bismarck Human Relations Committee

2/27/2023 - Minutes

Call To Order

Chair Grueneich called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

Roll Call

Committee members present were Gabrielle Abouassaly, Darcy Andahl, Jason Grueneich, Sashay Schettler, Sargianna Wutzke, and Carl Young. Jason Tomanek with the City of Bismarck was also present.

Geraldine Ambe and Nicole Ralph were absent.

HRC Mission

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 January 23, 2023, meeting minutes.

Motion: Darcy Andahl motioned to approve the January 23, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Gabrielle Abouassaly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved, with committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion.

3. Partnered Events

A. Capital Pride

Darcy Andahl motioned to support the Silver Status Sponsorship for a one-time fee of \$250, and Carl Young seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved, with committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion.

Sargianna Wutzke agreed to coordinate setting up the booth and scheduling volunteers for two-hour blocks of time beginning at 9:00 AM.

Sashay Schettler will look for cost-effective promotional materials utilizing the HRC logo. Items for consideration include sunglasses, stickers, candy, and buttons.

B. Families Around The World

The general consensus of the group was to participate in the March 27, 2023, Families Around the World event at the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library in Meeting Room A. Committee members volunteering to help include: Darcy Andahl, Thea Jorgensen, and Sargianna Wutzke. The committee will have a booth with a rock painting activity. They agreed to be on-site for set-up at 5:30 PM. There is no cost to participate in the event.

4. Build Committee Recognition

Sargianna Wutzke and Thea Jorgensen updated the committee on the These Are Your Neighbors podcast. The program has begun airing on Radio Access 102.5 FM on Tuesdays at 7:00 AM and Thursdays at 10:00 PM. Currently, three programs have been recorded with intention of recording a minimum of two programs each month.

Other Business

1. Special Olympics: The group discussed getting involved with and supporting activities with the Special Olympics.
2. Annual Report: The group will give its annual report at the April 25, 2023, City Commission meeting.
3. MEI Score: Carl Young motioned to create a subcommittee devoted to improving the Municipal Equality Index score, and Darcy Andahl seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved, with committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion. Committee members will reach out to cities in the region with admirable MEI scores to learn about their efforts.
4. Spring Equinox Event: Sashay Schettler mentioned the Spring Equinox Event at United Tribes Technical College, which will take place on March 22, 2023, from 5:30 - 8:00 PM.
5. Legislative Update: Sashay Schettler provided an update on legislative bills regarding book banning (SB 2123 & HB 1205) and slanderous language at sporting events (HB 3022).
6. LGBTQ Legislation: The committee discussed taking a position on current Anti-LGBTQ legislation. Sargianna Wutzke motioned for an open discussion on whether the HRC should take a position and provide recommendations to the City Commission, and Carl Young seconded, and it was unanimously approved, with committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion. The consensus of the discussion was to refrain from providing a recommendation, given the progress of the Legislative Session.