



Bismarck Human Relations Committee

7/17/2023 - Minutes

Call To Order

Vice Chair Thea Jorgensen called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

Committee members present were Darcy Andahl, Thea Jorgensen, Sashay Schettler, Carl Young, and Sargianna Wutzke. Jason Tomanek and Whitnie Olsen with the City of Bismarck were also present.

Gabrielle Abouassaly, Jason Grueneich, Geraldine Ambe, and Nicole Ralph were absent.

HRC Mission

Vice Chair Jorgensen read the mission statement.

1. Public Comment

No member of the public was present for comment.

2. Approval Of Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Jorgensen called for the consideration of the May 15, 2023, meeting minutes.

Motion: Darcy Andahl motioned to approve the May 15, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Carl Young seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved, with committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion.

3. Partnered Events

A. Juneteenth Event Recap

Sargianna Wutzke provided a summary of the Juneteenth event. Ms. Wutzke noted a large attendance, a full program of speakers, dancing, and food, and encouraged the committee to partner with the event organizers in 2024 to help fulfill the mission of the HRC.

B. Fargo Human Rights Committee Collaboration

The committee agreed to move this item to the August 21, 2023, meeting agenda.

C. Autumnfest Parade Participation

The consensus of the group was to not participate in the parade this fall due to the lack of availability of committee members.

4. Build Committee Recognition

A. These Are Your Neighbors Podcast

Vice Chair Jorgensen provided an update on the radio program and future guests. The group discussed way to promote the program and build a following. Future guests may include Aaron Hummel, Michelle Erickson, Senator Sean Cleary, and Sashay Schettler.

5. Municipal Equality Index Subcommittee Update

Due to the absence of Chair Grueneich, the MEI will be discussed at the August 21, 2023 meeting.

6. Other Business

- Vice Chair Jorgensen provided an update on the Capital Pride Event that was held in June. She noted the HRC's booth was well attended. Many people were interested in the committee's activities.
- The committee discussed the upcoming Dakota Pro Musica concert recognizing the anniversary of the death of Matthew Shepherd. The consensus of the committee members is to provide a \$250.00 donation to Dakota Pro Musica in support of the event.
 - Motion: Sargianna Wutzke motioned to donate \$250.00 to Dakota Pro Musica to support their event, and Carl Young seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted, aye. M/C.
- The Committee discussed the feasibility of displaying rainbow colors on select crosswalks in the community. Jason Tomanek will follow up with the City Engineer and report back at the next meeting.
- Sashay Schettler would like to collaborate with the Downtown Business Association on building a partnership to support the community and the HRC mission. She will provide a draft proposal for the Committee's consideration at the August 21, 2023 meeting.
- Committee members discussed ways to encourage participation and attendance by all committee members noting a frequency of absence of members. The committee recognizes the value of an engaged member and would encourage those that are unable to commit to attendance and participation to consider resigning to provide the opportunity for someone else from the community to step forward to fulfill that role.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.