



Bismarck Human Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2020

The Bismarck Human Relations Committee (HRC) met on July 20, 2020, at 5:15 PM in the Bismarck City/County Building, 4th Floor Conference Room, 221 N 5th Street. Chair Rausch presided.

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Committee members present were Darcy Andahl, Kollie Flomo, Brandi Jude, Annette Martel, Krista Rausch, Manisha Sawhney and S. Hannah Vanorny. Leah Hargrove, with Bismarck Global Neighbors, Whitnie Olsen and Jason Tomanek with the City of Bismarck were present.

Committee members Shae Helling and Trevor Vannett were absent.

HRC Mission

The mission was read by Chair Rausch.

Acceptance of Minutes

Chair Rausch called for consideration of the minutes of the June 15, 2020 Bismarck Human Relations Committee meeting.

Motion: Darcy Andahl made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2020 meeting as presented. Kollie Flomo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion.

Public Comment

Leah Hargrove with Global Neighbors joined the meeting to talk to the recent impact that COVID-19 has caused on the community especially those who are new Americans. She talked about not seeing new Americans represented through the community, especially with cultural and translation services.

- Hargrove was asked “What are the biggest problems you have seen?”
 - Paperwork, access to translators to immigrants in their native languages. Ex: cannot apply for Medicaid in the Spanish language which causes delays etc. to benefits.
 - Some new Americans are being asked to bring their own translators including children.
- Hargrove will research other cities for examples of immigrant programs and language access programs and will provide information to the committee prior to the next meeting.

The discussion was tabled until next meeting when Janelle Combs, the City Attorney, can be present to answer questions.

Municipal Action Guide: Advancing Racial Equity in Your City

Brandi Jude explained that her expectations would be to see the committee providing recommendations on current City ordinances that may have oppressive language that could be amended or provide help with creating new ordinances. She will research other cities as to how our city can make changes.

2020 HRC Goals



- Full Committee
- Student Liaisons
 - Manisha Sawhney provided a draft advertisement to send out to the schools regarding student liaisons. Discussion on specifics for the program followed. Sawhney will make revisions to the advertisement and bring to the next meeting.
- Diversity University
- Speaking to Service Clubs/Committees
 - S. Hannah Vanorny was not able to connect with Touchmark but has rescheduled with them for August. She will also be speaking with the Sertoma Club on August 19, 2020 which will be her sixth speaking engagement.

Other Business

Community Soccer Tournament

Kollie Flomo spoke with the committee about hosting a two-day soccer tournament at the MDU community bowl with expectations of being held in September. Any support from the committee is welcome. Support could include: help with setup, social distancing guidance, directing attendees.

How does it focus on the committee's mission? All people in the community are invited to participate and he is hoping to bring a diverse group together.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Rausch. The next meeting of the Bismarck Human Relations Committee will be held at 5:15 PM. on Monday, August 17, 2020 in the 4th floor Mayor's Conference Room of the Bismarck City/County Building.

Reported by Whitney Olsen