



MEETING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

8/19/2024 - Minutes

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The Human Relations Committee met on Monday, August 19, 2024, in the 4th Floor Mayor's Conference Room, 221 N 5th St.

Committee members present included Carl Young, Geraldine Ambe, Sargianna Wutzke, Gabrielle Abouassaly, Sashay Schettler, and Chair Thea Jorgensen. Members Jason Grueneich, Katie Houle, and Katryce Kluck were absent.

2. Public Comment

No comment was received.

3. Consider Approval of Minutes

Member Abouassaly motioned to approve the item as presented, and member Young seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

4. Community Conversations

A. July Event Feedback

Member Wutzke provided feedback as a panelist. The group discussed the event overall, which they felt was successful and noted items to work on for the next event.

B. November Event Topic Discussion

The group discussed topics for the upcoming Community Conversations event in November. The topic of Housing, was picked for the next event.

5. Potential Partnerships/Collaborations

A. Language Learning Opportunities

Chair Jorgensen wanted to let the Committee know of different language learning opportunities throughout the community, such as: French Club, English Language classes, etc.

B. ND Asian Americans Arts & Cultural Initiative

Chair Jorgensen let the Committee know that she has reached out to the North Dakota Asian-American Arts and Cultural Initiative to inquire about how their goals might align with that of the HRC.

C. American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)

Chair Jorgensen let the Committee know of training opportunities through the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

D. Sacred Pipe

Ashley Jahner and Cheryl Ann Kary, representatives of Sacred Pipe Resource Center, attended the meeting to discuss hurdles that many residents are facing with housing. Chair Jorgensen will meet with Sacred Pipe Resource Center staff to identify ways in which the HRC's mission aligns with the interests of the Sacred Pipe Resource Center's concerns.

E. New American/Foreign Born/Immigrant (NFI) Advisory Board

The Committee did not discuss.

F. Committee Communication/Calendar

Chair Jorgensen discussed creating a calendar with events happening throughout the community that aligns with the mission of the HRC. She would accept events ideas from board members and add them to the calendar. The calendar could be reviewed at the monthly committee meetings.

G. Youth Involvement

Chair Jorgensen asked the Committee to consider ways to get youth involved with the HRC and bring ideas back to a future meeting.

6. HRC Mission

Chair Jorgensen asked the Committee to consider the HRC's mission and be looking for opportunities for the HRC to partner with organizations whose goals align with the HRC's mission.

7. Podcast Update

Chair Jorgensen and Member Wutzke will be panelists for the Association of Business Communicators giving the storytelling from a podcast perspective.

8. Humanitarian Award Update

Chair Jorgensen asked Committee members to share with their networks that the Committee is accepting nominations for the Humanitarian Award. Nominations are accepted through August 31, 2024.

9. Marketing/Communications Update

Chair Jorgensen wanted to thank Kalen Ost, City Communications Strategist, for the time and efforts he has put forward to support the HRC.

10. Other Business

- Chair Jorgensen inquired about BisMarket Volunteers for September 21, 2024. Member Wutzke noted that they still needed volunteers for the 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM time slot.
- Doug Wiles, Assistant City Administrator, informed the Committee that Heather May, the City's new Integration Facilitator, might be reaching out as her position aligns with HRC's mission.
- Member Young notified the Committee about a Lunch and Learn on the Cycle of Addiction - Last Tuesday of each month.
- Member Schettler notified the Committee of a booth opportunity at the 2024 Dakota TESOL Conference, November 18-19, 2024.
- Member Wutzke addressed the Committee about member attendance and asked what options were available to remove members from the committee who had not had regular attendance at meetings.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.