



MEETING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

9/16/2024 - Minutes

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The Human Relations Committee met on Monday, September 16, 2024, in the 4th Floor Mayor's Conference Room, 221 N 5th St.

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

2. Public Comment

Dave Pearce, owner of Papa's Pumpkin Patch, attended the meeting to introduce Elly Kasirye, a representative of the Uganda Wakiso District Human Rights Committee. Mr. Kasirye spoke on the status of human rights in his country and how his committee's efforts align with that of the HRC.

3. Consider Approval of Minutes

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

4. Upcoming Events

- Bismarket - The committee will host a booth at Bismarket on September 21, 2024.

5. Collective Calendar

Chair Jorgensen will continue to work on the collective calendar and asked that committee members send events to City Administration so that they can be added.

6. Sacred Pipe Resource Center Housing Conversation

Chair Jorgensen has been working with the representatives of the Sacred Pipe Resource Center regarding housing. She will provide an update at the next meeting.

7. These Are Your Neighbors Podcast Update

Chair Jorgensen and Member Wutzke provided an update on the podcast.

8. Community Conversations - November

Chair Jorgensen and members Houle and Wutzke met to discuss the next Community Conversations event to be held on November 14, 2024. They would like to concentrate on access to suitable housing. The Committee has asked Member Ambe to be a moderator and will reach out to Sacred Pipe Resource Center to ask if they have a representative who would like to co-moderate. The group discussed different community organizations to ask for representation as panelists including:

- Micah Olson
- Sacred Pipe Resource Center
- F5 Project
- Ministry on the Margins
- Youth Works
- Housing Authority
- Dick Devers
- Legal Aid
- Global Neighbors
- Office of Legal Immigration
- Burleigh County Human Service Zone
- ND Continuum of Care

9. Humanitarian Award Nominations

The committee discussed the individuals and organizations nominated for the Humanitarian Award.

Each member provided their comments for each organization nominated. Upon a roll call vote Members Jorgensen, Wutzke, and Ambe voted for Sanford Health Bismarck and Members Grueneich and Houle voted for Heartview Foundation. Member Abousally abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest being employed by Sanford Health Bismarck. The award will be presented to Sanford Health Bismarck.

Chair Jorgensen named the individuals that were nominated. The group discussed the difference between presenting an award as an act of heroism versus as humanitarian efforts. After discussion, the consensus of the group was to notify the Police Department of the nomination for Marco Parada and recommend him for a Hero Award.

The group discussed the remaining individual nominations. Upon a roll call vote, Members Ambe, Grueneich, and Abousally voted for Micah Olson and Members Wutzke, Jorgensen and Houle voted for Paula Condol.

Discussion continued. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted for Micah Olson. The award will be presented to Micah Olson.

10. Other Business

City Commissioner Connelly mentioned the public transportation initiated measure that will be on the November election ballot.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.