



MEETING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

11/18/2024 - Minutes

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The Human Relations Committee met on Monday, November 18, 2024, in the 4th Floor Mayor's Conference Room, 221 N 5th St.

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

2. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

3. Consider Approval of Minutes

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

4. Upcoming Events Collective Calendar

There was no new information to report at this time.

5. These Are Your Neighbors Podcast Update

Members Wutzke and Jorgensen provided an update on the podcast. Upcoming guests include John Risch (Bismarck City Commissioner), Holly Triska-Dally (ND State Refugee Coordinator), and Emily Yanish (Development Director at Youthworks - North Dakota).

6. HRC Application Update

11 applications have been received for the upcoming vacant HRC seats. The Mayor will review the applications and submit his recommendation for placement to the Commission for approval.

7. Presentation of Humanitarian Awards Reminder

The 2023 Humanitarian Awards will be presented at the December 17, 2024, Bismarck City Commission meeting.

8. Ordinance Update

Doug Wiles, Assistant City Administrator, let the committee know that the Human Relations Committee Ordinance will reflect changes effective after the November 26, 2024, Bismarck City Commission meeting. One change will be to the composition of the committee, from nine members to seven.

9. Subcommittee Conversation

Member Houle introduced the idea of creating subcommittees for various activities the committee participates in. Member Houle noted that the subcommittees could include volunteers, to alleviate the same committee members from participating in every activity.

10. Community Conversations Follow Up

Chair Jorgensen provided an overview of the event and presented the comments the committee received from attendees of the event. The committee discussed possible ways to have the next event recorded or at the least have the conversation transcribed.

- [Comment Card Responses](#)

11. Upcoming Community Conversation Forum Plans (topics, dates).

The Community Conversations Subcommittee will meet in early January 2025 to discuss the next topic and date for the next event. Future topics may include Unhoused and Cultural Sensitivity/Competency.

12. Other Business

1. Upcoming events: Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, Families Around the World
2. Municipal Equality Index Update: [2024 Score](#)
3. Member Houle asked members to think of interactive activities the committee could have at the HRC booth for the various events they attend.
4. Commissioner Connelly noted that he will be forming a Public Transit Committee in the near future and welcomed all thoughts and ideas.

13. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:11 PM.