



MEETING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

10/15/2025 - Minutes

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The Human Relations Committee met at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, in the 4th Floor Mayor's Conference Room, 221 N. 5th St. Committee members present included Katie Houle, Joan Klein, Mirabela Punga, Thea Jorgensen, and Chair Sargianna Wutzke. The meeting was delayed by 15 minutes due to issues with meeting room technology, and Member Klein was present virtually, but had no audio to hear the meeting.

2. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

3. Consider Approval of Minutes

Changes to the minutes included adding in Member Zarr as she was present at the September meeting, but not included in the minutes, and a correction to Member Houle's name. Member Jorgensen moved to approve the minutes with the corrections and Member Houle seconded, upon a roll call vote. All vote aye. M/C.

4. Recap of Walk for Down's Syndrome Event

The event went well for volunteers and attendees. Member Houle mentioned the idea of having a booth at future Walk for Down's Syndrome Events to have more outreach to the community for the Human Relations Committee. Chair Wutzke will meet with the event coordinator to get more information on having a booth at the event.

5. Community Conversations

The final date and location for the Community Conversations event has been set to Tuesday, November 18, 2025, from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM in the Tom Baker Room at 221 N. 5th St in Bismarck. Invites have been sent out to panelists, with hopes of Sacred Pipe filling the last two panelist spots. Member Houle and Sister Kathleen Atkinson will be moderators for the event. There was a discussion for backup options if the last two spots were not filled, but no concrete decision. Kalen Ost presented the poster he made for the event for feedback. Feedback included changing some of the imagery and text. Kalen also brought up the plan for the social media post and press release. Chair Wutzke brought up the idea of recognizing the Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People for all they do at the event and the committee agreed it would be a good idea.

6. Community Events

A. Open Your Heart Campaign – Member Jorgensen recommended not going forward with a booth at future events as it wouldn't be feasible for HRC, but there are possible volunteer options in the future.

B. MLK Holiday Commission Event – The event will be Monday, January 19, 2026, with Trinity Lutheran Church as a pending location and time of the event to be confirmed. Member Jorgensen attended one meeting to discuss the event and plans to attend a second event to discuss the event further. Member Jorgensen motioned to move forward with a \$250 donation from the HRC and Member Houle seconded. All voted aye. M/C

7. 2025 Humanitarian of the Year

The committee discussed when to open nominations for the Humanitarian Award, and it was agreed to start in February 2026.

8. Timeline for New Committee Members and Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Member Jorgensen's term is up, along with another open position that was never filled. Chair Wutzke made everyone aware that the election for the Chair and Vice Chair of HRC will be coming up in January.

9. Other Business

Member Jorgensen briefly mentioned a possible partnership with a local sticker artist for the 2026 Pride event depending on budget.

Member Jorgensen and Member Zarr met about the volunteer committee and came up with a template for an initial email, a secondary email about the event and volunteer opportunity, and a final 'thank you' and appreciation email. There was brief discussion on how those emails would be sent out, but further discussion was tabled for the November meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM.