



MEETING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

12/17/2025 - Minutes

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The Human Relations Committee met at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, in the 3rd Floor David Blackstead Conference Room, 221 N. 5th St. Committee members present included Katie Houle, Mirabela Punga, Betsy Zarr, Thea Jorgensen, Joan Klein, and Chair Sargianna Wutzke.

2. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

3. Consider Approval of Minutes

No changes were made to the minutes. Member Houle moved to approve the minutes with no changes and Member Jorgensen seconded, upon a roll call vote. All vote aye. M/C

4. Recap of Lights Across the Prairie, World Aids Day Event

The committee discussed the event. The event went well, and the turnout was great. No further discussion was made.

5. Discussion of Humanitarian of the Year Criteria

Chair Wutzke asked the committee if there were any suggestions for changing or updating the application. There was an agreement to include a section for more specific reasons for nominations, but no further ideas were mentioned. The committee agreed to discuss the application in more depth at the next meeting.

6. Community Events

A. MLK Holiday Commission Event

The event was confirmed for January 19, 2026, at Trinity Lutheran Church at 6pm. The committee decided to not have a booth at the event, but agreed they

would attend individually if their schedules allowed.

B. Community Conversations Forum

Member Houle went over the Community Conversations summary that would be sent to the City Commission for input. The committee hopes to present their summary of the recent Community Conversations event at the January 27, 2026, City Commission meeting. April 13, 2026, was proposed as a potential date for the next Community Conversations event. The topic of the event and venue have yet to be decided.

7. End of the Year Budget

The topic of purchasing more HRC branded merchandise, brochures, and banners was discussed, but details on those purchases were not decided.

8. Other Business

Other business moved to item 8. Member Jorgensen mentioned the These Are Your Neighbors podcast and the growing number of listeners the podcast has gained. The timeline for new members was also discussed briefly.

9. HRC Application Review

Member Jorgensen dismissed herself since she was among the applicants. The committee went over the applicants for a recommendation for the mayor. In their discussion, there was concern over one applicant being on other committees within the City of Bismarck. Their final recommendation was for Member Jorgensen to remain on the committee, and to appoint Denise Fettig-Loftesnes to the committee.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 PM.