



Human Relations Committee

MEETING
December 17, 2025

**2nd Floor David Blackstead
Conference Room**

**City/County Office Building
221 N 5th Street**

4:00 PM

HRC Mission

The purpose of the Bismarck Human Relations Committee is to create an atmosphere of inclusion, equality, and accessibility through education and outreach to recognize the value of a diverse community.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Consider Approval of Minutes
4. Recap of Lights Across the Prairie, World Aids Day Event
5. Discussion on Humanitarian of the Year Criteria
6. Community Events
 - A. MLK Holiday Commission Event
 - B. Community Conversations Forum
7. End of the Year Budget
8. HRC Application Review
9. Other Business

ADJOURN



MEETING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

11/19/2025 - Minutes

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The Human Relations Committee met at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, in the 4th Floor Mayor's 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 Zarr seconded, upon a roll call vote. All vote aye. M/C

4. Recap of Community Conversations Event

Members of the committee discussed how the event went and shared their thoughts for future Community Conversations events. In the future, they suggested shorter intros at the beginning of the event, potential time limits for public comment when it's obvious there are a larger number of audience members who wish to contribute, more individuals with lived experience, but still expressed the importance of having experts present, and inviting more politicians outside of the City Commissioners. They went over the feedback forms and discussed presenting the feedback and giving comment at a future Commission meeting in January.

5. Community Events

- A. Shine Bright and Live – Lights Across the Prairie, World Aids Day Event
Chair Wutzke led the conversation about a sponsorship to Shine Bright and Live, having a booth at the event and volunteer opportunities.

Members Klein, Houle, Jorgensen, and Chair Wutzke all volunteered for various times during the event. Discussing the sponsorship, Member Jorgensen motioned to sponsor \$250 to Shine Bright and Live for the Lights Across the Prairie, World Aids Day Event, Member Houle seconded, upon a roll call vote. All vote aye. M/C

B. MLK Holiday Commission Event

Member Jorgensen confirmed that the event will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, but did not have the exact date or time of the event. There was mention of having a booth at the event but chose to discuss details at future meeting.

C. Next Community Conversations Event

Chair Wutzke wanted to discuss potential dates and topics for the next event. Member Jorgensen suggested another event focused on homelessness in the community, speaking with various connections for another collaboration, and extending the event by half an hour. Chair Wutzke encouraged the idea of inviting other city leaders, legislators, and the governor and his wife to the next event.

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

The committee discussed the timeline for the application process and elections. As of the meeting, the applications were still open and closed at the end of November.

7. 2025 Humanitarian of the Year Timeline for Application Submissions

The committee agreed to start the process in late February or early March, with the goal of the award going out at the end of spring. They discussed adjusting the criteria for nominations.

8. Other Business

Member Houle wanted to revisit ways to give an honorarium to Community Conversations panelists with lived experience. Assistant City Administrator Doug Wiles noted he would check with Fiscal on how we could provide honorariums. The option of HRC merchandise for honorariums was also discussed.

9. Adjourn

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