



MEETING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

2/18/2026 - MINUTES

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The Human Relations Committee met at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, in the 4th Floor Mayor's Conference Room, 221 N. 5th St. Committee members present included Chair Katie Houle, Vice Chair Joan Klein, Betsy Zarr, Sargianna Wutzke, Mirabela Punga, and Denise Fettig-Loftesnes.

2. Public Comment

Heather May, Community Integration Facilitator with the City of Bismarck, shared that she is looking into micro-grants that could be utilized to give honorariums to individuals that participate in Community Conversations Forums.

3. Consider Approval of Minutes

No changes were made to the minutes. Vice Chair Klein motioned to approve the minutes as presented, member Fettig-Loftesnes seconded. M/C

4. Community Conversations

A. Recap of Commission Presentation

Member Wutzke shared that the presentation went well and that it was good to align their presentation with the work that Public Health director Renae Moch is doing regarding the triage center. Chair Houle shared that she sent out the presentation to other homelessness partners in the community so they are aware of the work the HRC is doing.

B. Discussion for Next Event

The committee decided the next event should focus on homelessness. The event is tentatively scheduled for April 21st or April 23rd, favoring April 21st, at the Dream Center. Members Fettig-Loftesnes, Punga, and Klein are the Community Conversations Forum subcommittee.

5. Humanitarian of the Year

A. Recap of BPS Empower[Ed] Pitch and Student Engagement

Chair Houle and member Wutzke met with two Bismarck Public Schools students to help create a revised application for the youth award for the Humanitarian of the Year Award.

B. Discuss 2025 Humanitarian of the Year Award

The committee assigned Chair Houle and members Wutzke and Zarr to the Humanitarian Award subcommittee, the subcommittee will revise application questions prior to the March HRC meeting.

6. Community Events

A. Families Around the World

No date has been decided for this event.

B. NDAAACI Cultural Expo - May 30, 2026

The NDAAACI Cultural Expo - May 30, 2026 from 2 pm - 4 pm at the BSC Bavendick Center. The HRC will have a booth present at the NDAAACI Cultural Expo

The NDAAACI will also be hosting upcoming Know My Culture Events:

Mongolia - March 5 from 5:30 pm - 8 pm at the Morton Mandan Public Library

Malaysia - March 19 from 5:30 pm - 8 pm at the Morton Mandan Public Library

Thailand - April 16 5:30 pm - 8 pm at the Morton Mandan Public Library

7. Annual Report

Member Wutzke prepared a rough draft of the Annual Report, which will be presented to the City Commission, and requested that the committee review the draft and provide feedback prior to the next HRC meeting. The committee plans to present the Annual Report at the April 14th City Commission meeting.

8. Budget Discussion

Vice Chair Klein will take over the budget review and presentations.

9. Other Business

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:51 pm.