



MEETING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

3/18/2026 - MINUTES

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The Human Relations Committee met at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, March 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, Sargianna Wutzke, Betsy Zarr, Mirabela Punga, Thea Jorgensen, and Denis Fettig-Loftesnes.

2. [Public Comment](#)

There was no public comment.

3. Consider Approval of Minutes

Member Fettig-Loftesnes motioned to approve the minutes as presented, member Zarr seconded. M/C

4. Humanitarian of the Year

Member Wutzke gave an update for the language and questions for each of the three categories of award. Member Jorgensen motioned to move forward with the content that was developed by the Humanitarian of the Year Subcommittee, member Fetting-Loftesnes seconded. M/C

5. Community Conversations Forum

The next Community Conversations Forum will be held at the Dream Center in Bismarck on April 21, 2026, from 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM, focusing on housing the unhoused. The Community Conversations Subcommittee has arranged moderators and panelists, and is working on arranging individuals with lived experience. There was discussion about ensuring that there's plenty of opportunity for public input.

Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health Director, Renae Moch, raised concern about too much discussion around the triage center since it's a Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health project that is still in progress.

Member Punga presented options from Capital Trophy for branded honorariums for panelists. The committee decided on the dedicated products for honorariums. Member Punga made the motion to dedicate funds for the honorariums, Vice Chair Klein seconded. M/C

6. Community Events

A. Families Around the World - Monday, April 27, 2026, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

B. NDAAACI Cultural Expo - Saturday, May 30, 2026, 2pm - 4pm

Member Jorgensen motioned to sponsor the event with a \$250 donation, member Fettig-Loftesnes seconded. M/C

C. Capital Pride - June 12-14, 2026

D. Juneteenth

7. Annual Report

Member Wutzke presented minor changes to the Annual Report and confirmed that it will be on the agenda for the April 14, 2026 Bismarck City Commission meeting. Chair Houle and members Wutzke and Zarr will be presenting at the April 14, 2026 Bismarck City Commission meeting.

8. Budget

Chair Houle moved budget discussion to the next meeting due to lack of time.

9. Other Business

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.