



Human Relations Committee

MEETING
May 20, 2026

**4th Floor Mayor's
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. Humanitarian of the Year
5. Community Conversations
6. Community Events
 - A. Families Around the World - Debrief
 - B. NDAAACI Cultural Expo - May 30, 2pm-4pm
 - C. Capitol City Pride - June 13, 10am-4pm
 - D. Juneteenth - June 19, 5pm-9pm
7. Other Business

ADJOURN

The next regular meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 4PM in the 4th Floor Mayor's Conference Room.



MEETING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

4/15/2026 - MINUTES

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The Human Relations Committee met at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, April 15, 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, Thea Jorgensen, and Denise Fettig-Loftesnes.

2. [Public Comment](#)

There was no public comment.

3. Consider Approval of Minutes

Member Jorgensen motioned to approve the minutes as presented, member Wutzke seconded. M/C

4. Humanitarian of the Year

Chair Houle went over the current nominations for the Humanitarian Award. There are currently no nominations for the youth category. The committee discussed ways to encourage more nominations for the youth category. Submissions close on April 30.

5. Community Conversations

Member Klein gave an update on the panelists and moderators. There was discussion on ensuring that there's plenty of opportunity for public input at the forum by limiting public comment to 3 minutes, and keeping the feedback form open to submissions until April 24th at noon.

Chair Houle will not be present, all other members will be present. Administration will inquire whether commissioners will be in attendance.

6. Community Events

Member Jorgensen introduced the idea of sponsorship for the Global Gala put on by the Bismarck Global Neighbors on April 23, 2026. The committee decided to decline the opportunity due to limited details for sponsorship and lack of presence by the committee.

A. Families Around the World - April 27, 6:30-8 PM

B. NDAAACI Cultural Expo - May 30, 2-4 PM

Chair Houle confirmed times for setup and checked with the committee for volunteers. Member Fettig-Loftesnes volunteered time for part of the event or the whole event. Chair Houle will check with member Punga for volunteering availability.

C. Capital Pride - June 12-14

D. Juneteenth

There was discussion on sponsorship for the event, but there may be an issue since the event is in Mandan. Administration will check on sponsorship opportunity.

7. Budget

Vice Chair Klein went over the HRC budget. The committee is looking to replace their brochure with a two-sided rack card. Member Jorgensen asked about budgeting in the Out of the Darkness Walk, but the committee decided to table the conversation until closer to the event in September.

8. Other Business

Chair Houle discussed HOBY Youth Leadership reaching out to her and requesting the members of the HRC present at their seminar in June. Member Wutzke spoke about her personal experience with HOBY and how beneficial speaking at this event would be. Subcommittee for event includes Chair Houle and members Wutzke, Jorgensen, and Zarr. Member Jorgensen motioned to participate in event, and member Wutzke seconded. M/C

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM.