



MEETING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

6/17/2026 - 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, Members Sargianna Wutzke, Betsy Zarr, Mirabela Punga, and Denise Fettig-Loftesnes.

2. [Public Comment](#)

The Bismarck Integration Facilitator, Heather May, suggested notifying Mandan nominees that they were nominated for the Bismarck Humanitarian Award, and to let City of Mandan Administration know there may be interest for a Humanitarian Award for Mandan.

3. Consider Approval of Minutes

Chair Houle noted Levi Engelstad's last name was misspelled. Member Wutzke motioned to approve the minutes with the change in spelling, Vice Chair Klein seconded. M/C

4. Community Conversations

Vice Chair Klein gave an update from the subcommittee. The subcommittee suggested the next topic still be related to homelessness, but focusing more on what resources are available, such as medical, housing, food, and transportation, and the importance of making sure those resources are known. The committee discussed how they can make all the resources we have in the community known to the people who may need them. Member Wutzke suggested focusing on a topic that hasn't previously been talked about, such as mental health and substance abuse. It was proposed that the subcommittee meet again and form a list of potential topics and then send that list out to the rest of the committee to vote on.

5. Humanitarian Award

Chair Houle reported that all three of the nominees for the three categories for the Humanitarian Award will be present at the June 23 Commission Meeting to receive their award. Chair Houle and Member Jorgensen will be presenting the awards to the nominees.

6. HOBY Student Leadership Presentation

Chair Houle, Vice Chair Klein and Members Wutzke and Jorgensen will be presenting at the HOBY Seminar on Saturday, June 20, showcasing who the HRC is and how members of the Human Relations Committee show leadership within the community.

7. Community Events

A. NDAAACI Cultural Expo - Debrief

Member Fettig-Loftesnes reported that event went well, with a lot of interest in the HRC booth.

B. Capital City Pride - Debrief

Chair Houle reported that the event went well, with a lot of attendees approaching the HRC booth. The committee discussed coming up with talking points about the HRC for when they have booths at events.

C. Juneteenth - June 19, 5PM-9PM

Chair Houle and members Jorgensen and Zarr will be volunteering for the Juneteenth event at Dykshoorn Park in Mandan.

8. Other Business

Member Wutzke encouraged watching/listening to Know Your Neighbors podcast since Member Fettig-Loftesnes was a guest on the most recent episode.

Chair Houle will be absent for the next meeting, so Vice Chair Klein will be leading the July 15 meeting. Member Punga will also be absent.

ADJOURN

The next regular meeting date is scheduled for July 15, 2026, at 4PM, in the Mayor's Conference Room on the 4th floor of the City/County Building at 221 North 5th Street.

The next regular meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 4PM in the 4th Floor Mayor's Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned at 4:47 PM



MEETING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

5/20/2026 - 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, Members Sargianna Wutzke, Betsy Zarr, Mirabela Punga, Thea Jorgensen, and Denise Fettig-Loftesnes.

2. [Public Comment](#)

No public comment was received.

3. Consider Approval of Minutes

Member Jorgensen motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Vice Chair Klein seconded. M/C

4. Humanitarian of the Year

Chair Houle went over the scoring for the nominations in each category for the Humanitarian Award. Vice Chair Klein motioned to award the organization category to the CHS Peer to Peer group, Member Fettig-Loftesnes seconded, all aye. M/C Member Jorgensen motioned to award the adult category to Megan Frankl-Mann, Member Zarr seconded, all aye. M/C Member Jorgensen motioned to award the youth category to Levi Engelstad, Member Zarr seconded, all aye. M/C

It was decided that the awards would be presented at the June 23rd, 2026 City Commission meeting. Member Wutzke will present the award to Megan Frankl-Mann, Member Jorgensen will present the award to CHS Peer to Peer, and Chair Houle will present the award to Levi Engelstad. Member Wutzke will send out email to nominees that were not chosen.

5. Community Conversations

There was no discussion on the Community Conversations forum.

6. Community Events

A. Families Around the World - Debrief

The committee discussed how the event went well and had a good turnout, and briefly discussed ideas for next year.

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

Member Fettig-Loftesnes volunteered to be present for the entire event and Member Punga tentatively volunteered if needed.

C. Capitol City Pride - June 13, 10am-4pm

Chair Houle proposed a \$250 sponsorship. Member Jorgensen motioned to approve the sponsorship, Member Fettig-Loftesnes seconded, all aye. M/C

Chair Houle and Vice Chair Klein volunteered to set up and be present at the beginning part of the event. Member Fettig-Loftesnes and Member Wutzke volunteered to be present for the middle part of the event. Member Jorgensen and Member Punga volunteered for the last part of the event.

D. Juneteenth - June 19, 5pm-9pm

After receiving approval from City Administration, Chair Houle proposed a \$250 sponsorship. Member Jorgensen motioned to approve sponsorship, Vice Chair Klein seconded, all aye. M/C

Chair Houle volunteered for the first part of the event, Member Zarr volunteered for the middle part of the event, and Member Jorgensen volunteered for the last part of the event.

7. Other Business

Chair Houle presented three options for rack card designs that will replace the previous HRC brochures. The committee agreed on a design and Administration will work to get the design finalized and printed for upcoming events.

ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM.