



Human Relations Committee

MEETING
July 15, 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. Community Conversations
5. Humanitarian Award Presentation - Debrief
6. HOBY Student Leadership Presentation - Debrief
7. Community Events
 - A. Juneteenth - Debrief
 - B. Walk for Down Syndrome - September 26, 2026
 - C. Other Upcoming Events
8. Other Business

ADJOURN

The next regular meeting date is scheduled for August 19, 2026, at 4PM in the Mayor's Conference Room on the 4th floor of the City/County Building at 221 North 5th Street.



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.

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Meeting adjourned at 4:47 PM