



MEETING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

8/19/2026 - MINUTES

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The Human Relations Committee met at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, in the 4th Floor Mayor's Conference Room, 221 N. 5th St. Committee members present included Chair Katie Houle, Members Joan Klein, Denise Fettig-Loftesnes, Sargianna Wutzke, and Betsy Zarr.

2. [Public Comment](#)

No public comment was received.

3. Consider Approval of Minutes

Member Zarr noted the wrong date listed for the previous meeting and a grammatical error in the previous minutes. Member Fettig-Loftesnes moved to approve the minutes with the mentioned changes. Member Wutzke seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

4. Community Conversations Forum

Chair Houle and the subcommittee met to discuss potential dates for the next Community Conversations Forum for sometime in October or November. The committee agreed on the tentative date of October 15 at Dream Center Bismarck from 6 PM - 8 PM. The forum will consist of two co-moderators and a total of five panelists - three mental health professionals and two individuals with lived experience.

The committee discussed potentially opening the event at 5 PM to give attendees time to speak with provided resource booths prior to the forum.

The subcommittee will meet on August 28 to form a timeline for the event.

5. Community Events

A. Walk for Down Syndrome - September 26, 2026

The committee discussed the volunteer opportunities for the event, with Chair Houle available for the first half of the event and Member Zarr available for the entire event. Member Klein volunteered to help put bags together prior to the event if needed.

The committee decided it would be more beneficial to not have a table at the event and to

help with registration and attend the walk instead.

B. Other Upcoming Events

North Dakota Asian-American Arts and Culture Initiative (NDAAACI) Know My Culture Series:

Philippines - October 15, 5:30 PM - 7 PM at the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library

Mongolia - November 12, 5:30 PM - 7 PM at the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library

Taiwan - December 3, 5:30 PM - 7 PM at the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library

China - January 20, 5:30 PM - 7 PM at the Morton Mandan Public Library

Country to be decided - February 24, 5:30 PM - 7 PM at the Morton Mandan Public Library

Iran - March 24, 5:30 PM - 7 PM at the Morton Mandan Public Library

Downtowners Street Fair 2026 - September 18, 10 AM - 8 PM & September 19, 9 AM - 6 PM

Commissioner Hull inquired about the HRC having a booth at the Downtowners Street Fair in September. City Administration will speak with the Planning Department about sharing a city booth.

6. Other Business

ADJOURN

The next regular meeting date is scheduled for September 16, 2026, at 4PM in the Mayor's Conference Room on the 4th floor of the City/County Building at 221 North 5th Street.

Meeting adjourned at 4:36 PM.