



Bismarck Human Relations Committee

1/22/2024 - Minutes

HRC Mission

Chair Grueneich read the mission statement.

Call To Order

Chair Grueneich called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM. Members present were Jason Grueneich, Sargianna Wutzke, Thea Jorgensen, Carl Young, Sashay Schettler, Gabby Abouassaly and Katie Houle. Members absent were Geraldine Ambe and Katrice Kluck.

1. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

2. Introduction Of New Members

Current committee members introduced themselves to new member Katie Houle.

3. Election Of Officers

Sargianna Wutzke motioned to nominate Thea Jorgensen as committee chair, and Carl Young seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

Carl Young motioned to nominate Gabby Abouassaly as committee vice chair, and Thea Jorgensen seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

4. Approval Of Meeting Minutes

Sargianna Wutzke motioned to approve the minutes as presented, and Sashay Schettler seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

5. Community Conversations Discussion

Chair Grueneich provided an overview of the Community Conversations Discussion program. The intended panelists will include, Dan Eastgate (BPS School Board Member), President Leander McDonald (United Tribes Technical College), Sister Kathleen Atkinson (Ministry on the Margins), Dawn Kopp or Kate Herzog (Downtowners), Jasmine Tosseth-Smith (Bismarck Global Neighbors), and Brian Ritter (Sanford Health). Alternates include: Holly Triska-Dally, Erica Thunder, Jan Stankiewicz, and Mark Meyer. Committee members discussed the questions that will be asked of the panelists which include:

1. Diversity in the City and what does it mean to you?
2. Have you, or those you serve experienced adversities in Bismarck?
3. How do these experiences impact your sense of belonging in the community?

HRC members will reach out to panelists to confirm their availability and Chair Grueneich will coordinate with panelists prior to the event.

6. Equity In Emergency Management Planning Update

Member Jorgensen provided an update and she will continue to work with City Emergency Manager, Gary Stockert.

7. Other Business

1. Humanitarian Award: The Committee discussed the Humanitarian Award for 2023. The consensus of the group is to request nominations in August 2024, consider the applications at the September 2024, and present the awards at the annual anniversary celebration in October 2024.
2. Annual Report: The Committee discussed the annual report which will be delivered at the April 9, 2024, City Commission meeting. Committee Members Grueneich and Wutzke agreed to collaborate on the project for the 2023 report. The consensus of the group is to have multiple committee members attend and report on the Committee's activities over the past year.
3. These Are Your Neighbors: Thea Jorgensen provided an update on the program.
4. Invocation for Community Conversation: The Committee discussed having an invocation presented at the event by a local member(s) of faith-based organizations.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.