



## Bismarck Human Relations Committee

The Bismarck Human Relations Committee is scheduled to meet in regular session on Monday, July 19, at 5:15 PM in the 4th Floor Mayor's Conference Room, City/County Office Building, 221 North Fifth Street, Bismarck, North Dakota.

Call To Order

Roll Call

HRC Mission

The mission of the Human Relations Committee is to protect and promote the personal dignity of all Bismarck citizens and to eliminate any discriminatory barriers that prevent them from reaching their full human potential, seeking to make education and compliance a meaningful and visible strategy to recognize the value of a diverse community.

### 1. Approval Of Meeting Minutes

Documents:

[HRC\\_MEETING\\_06212021.PDF](#)

### 2. Public Comment

### 3. 2021 HRC Goals

- A. Diversity University
- B. Municipal Quality Index Rating
- C. Participate In Community Events
- D. Student Liaisons

- 1. Update From Jason Tomanek Regarding Bismarck Public Schools Partnership.

Documents:

[BPS UPDATE.PDF](#)

### 4. Other Business

Adjournment

Next meeting: 5:15 PM, August 16, 2021

4th Floor Mayor's Conference Room- Bismarck City/County Building  
221 N 5th Street, Bismarck, ND







## Bismarck Human Relations Committee

6/21/2021 - Minutes

Call To Order

Vice-Chair Vannett called the meeting to order at **5:19** PM.

Roll Call

Committee members present were Jason Grueneich, Brandi Hardy, Krista Rausch, Manisha Sawhney, Trevor Vannett, and Sargianna Wutzke. Whitney Olsen and Jason Tomanek with the City of Bismarck were also present.

Committee members Kollie Flomo, and Annette Martel were absent.

Committee member Darcy Andahl joined the meeting at 5:26 PM.

HRC Mission

The mission was read by Vice-Chair Vannett.

### 1. Approval Of Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chair Vannett called for consideration of the May 17, 2021 meeting minutes.

Motion: Krista Rausch made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2021, meeting as presented. Brandi Hardy seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved with committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion.

### 2. Public Comment

There was no public present.

### 3. 2021 HRC Goals

#### A. Diversity University

There are no updates at this time.

#### B. Municipal Quality Index Rating

Member Brandi Hardy provided an update on the Municipal Equality Index (MEI) Rating. The Bismarck City Commission will review the request from the HRC to engage with City staff to improve and complete the MEI Scorecard. Discussion followed.

#### C. Participate In Community Events

Jason Grueneich provided an overview of the HRC booth at the Capitol Pride Event. The promotional information worked to draw people to the booth and increased interactions between the group and the public. Discussion followed regarding other events the group can participate in to engage in the community.

#### D. Student Liaisons

Jason Tomanek, Assistant City Administrator, opened the discussion by suggesting that a student liaison partnership be developed to have a new logo created for the HRC. The logo would be used for educational materials and printed on a new banner. The committee agreed that students or other community partners would be ideal for creating the logo. Members are going to reach out to community contacts for interest in creating the logo.

Manisha Sawhney asked the committee when they would like to start promoting the Student Liaison program to the schools. Committee members discussed different options for advertising the program to encourage student engagement. Jason Tomanek indicated he would connect with Superintendent Dr. Jason Hornbacher to share information about the HRC and seek feedback for the group. Committee members will present the program pitch to the Bismarck School Board Meeting on August 9, 2021.

#### 4. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

#### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM.





## City Administration

**DATE:** July 12, 2021  
**FROM:** Jason Tomanek, Assistant City Administrator  
**ITEM:** Human Relations Committee Report

**REQUEST:**

Please accept this report at the July 19, 2019 Human Relations Committee’s regular meeting. I will be out of the office the week of July 19<sup>th</sup>; I have prepared the following information to support the continued efforts to engage student liaisons and updating the current Human Relations Committee logo.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

At the June 21, 2021 Human Relations Committee (HRC) meeting the Committee discussed a variety of efforts to help engage students in Bismarck and to develop a program to foster relationships between the HRC and high school students in the community. The purpose of the activities will be to provide opportunities for students to become aware of the HRC and its mission to help educate and promote diversity and inclusion in addition to offering experiences and programs to help support the mission of the Bismarck Public School District (BPS).

To help make connections to key stakeholders and staff within the school district I met with Superintendent Dr. Jason Hornbacher on June 28, 2021. We discussed the opportunity to engage students and faculty in a mutually-beneficial manner to support identified goals of the HRC and BPS. The topics discussed included raising students’ awareness of the HRC’s mission and goals, engaging student liaisons, the HRC’s annual poetry and essay contest, and the desire to work with students from the Career Academy to help design and develop an updated logo for the HRC’s use.

During our conversation, it became evident that the City of Bismarck’s Strategic Plan and the Strategic Plan of BPS have areas of overlap where identified goals and initiatives could be achieved through direct correlation and focused efforts between BPS and the HRC. Dr. Hornbacher indicated a strong desire to facilitate connections and conversations with key faculty within BPS. In the weeks ahead, Dr. Hornbacher will be

reaching out to select individuals to help facilitate these connections between the City of Bismarck Administration Department and the HRC. I will begin to share information with these individuals to help build a foundation for the students' and HRC's efforts toward achieving the established goals. BPS staff from the Career Academy, the Indigenous People Advisory Committee (IPAC) and the Teaching Learning Academy (TLA) will be contacted by Dr. Hornbacher to help get the project started. Dr. Hornbacher indicated that he and I should reconnect at the end of July to ensure communications between myself and select individuals within BPS have begun.

If the HRC is supportive of this process, I would be happy to continue to serve as the point-person for BPS to help facilitate these efforts during the formation process. Once connections between City and Schools staff has been made, I would recommend inviting key BPS staff to a future HRC meeting to further discuss goals, objectives and understanding between both organizations.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Receive the report and direct staff on the desired action, if any.

**STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Jason Tomanek, Assistant City Administrator

[jtomanek@bismarcknd.gov](mailto:jtomanek@bismarcknd.gov) | 701.355.1300