



Bismarck Human Relations Committee

1/10/2022 - Minutes

Call To Order

Vice-chair Vannett called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

Roll Call

Committee members present were Jason Grueneich, Thea Jorgensen, Nicole Ralph, Trevor Vannett, and Sargianna Wutzke. Whitnie Olsen and Jason Tomanek with the City of Bismarck were also present.

Committee members Darcy Andahl, Kollie Flomo, Krista Rausch, and Sashay Schettler were absent.

HRC Mission

The mission was read by Vice-Chair Vannett.

1. Approval Of Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chair Vannett called for consideration of the December 20, 2021, meeting minutes.

Motion: Sargianna Wutzke motioned to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2021, meeting as presented. Jason Grueneich seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved, with committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion.

2. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

3. 2021 HRC Goals

A. Build Recognition Through Participation In Community Events Quarterly

1. Martin Luther King Day Celebration - January 17, 2022
 - o Jason Tomanek provided an update about the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission donation. \$950.00 was donated from the remaining Human Relations Committee 2021 budget. City staff will post a special meeting notice for the event due to anticipated participation by several committee members.
2. Families Around the World - January 24, 2022
 - o City staff will post a special meeting notice for the event due to anticipated participation by several committee members.
3. Humanitarian Award
 - o City staff has put out a notice seeking nominations for the Humanitarian Award. The committee has received one nomination. Nominations will be accepted until February 25, 2022. The committee will review all nominations at the February meeting.
4. Student Essay and Poetry Contest
 - o City staff will notice the student essay and poetry contest to local media. Entries will be accepted until February 25, 2022. The committee will review all submissions at the February meeting.

B. Municipal Equality Index Rating

Jason Grueneich did not have new information to report. He will meet with City representatives before the next meeting and report back to the committee. He will also reach out to the National Human Rights Coalition and report new information to the committee at the February meeting.

C. New Goals: Continued Discussion

The committee continued the discussion of goals for 2022. They set the goals for 2022 as follows:

1. Building Recognition
2. Diversity University
 - o Hosted Events - 2 each year
 - o Partnered Events - 2 each year
3. Youth Engagement
4. Municipal Equality Index Rating - Improved reporting and increased score

4. Other Business

1. Chair and Vice-Chair Elections
 - o The committee discussed the election of the committee chair and vice-chair positions for the upcoming year. Trevor Vannett volunteered to serve as the committee chair and nominated Jason Grueneich as vice-chair.
 - o Motion: Sargianna Wutzke motioned to appoint Trevor Vannett as HRC Chair and Jason Grueneich as HRC Vice-Chair for 2022. Thea Jorgensen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved, with committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion.
2. Committee members discussed advertising committee events on local media outlets. They will reach out to news and radio stations to schedule times.
3. Jason Grueneich opened a discussion about requesting a budget increase from the Bismarck City Commission. The committee agreed that an increased budget would assist them in meeting their goals. They will submit a request to the budget committee in March 2020, when they meet.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM. The next meeting will be held on February 28, 2022.