

Bismarck Human Relations Committee Meeting Minutes

7/19/2021 - Minutes

Call To Order

Vice-Chair Vannett called the meeting to order at 5:18 PM.

Roll Call

Committee members present were Darcy Andahl, Jason Grueneich, Brandi Hardy, Krista Rausch, Trevor Vannett, and Sargianna Wutzke. Whitnie Olsen with the City of Bismarck was also present.

Committee members Kollie Flomo, Annette Martel, and Manisha Sawhney 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 June 21, 2021 meeting minutes.

Motion: Krista Rausch made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 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

There was discussion from the public.

3. 2021 HRC Goals

A. Diversity University

Brandi Hardy and Krista Rausch will provide an update at the August 16, 2021, meeting.

B. Municipal Quality Index Rating

Jason Grueneich updated the committee on the Municipal Equality Index (MEI) Rating received from the Human Rights Campaign. Currently, the Bismarck Police Department has an LGBTQ liaison that is not being recognized in the MEI. The committee discussed possible ways to increase the City's score. Committee member Grueneich will reach out to Renae Moch, director of Public Health, to discuss several possible areas for improvement. Whitnie Olsen will connect with City Administrators to discuss a possible Executive Office LGBTQ Liaison and report back to the committee.

Motion: Jason Grueneich made a motion asking the Bismarck Administration Department to have a conversation about creating an Executive LGBTQ Liaison position for the City of Bismarck. Darcy Andahl seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved, with committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion.

C. Participate In Community Events

D. Student Liaisons

The committee received a report from Jason Tomanek regarding a partnership with Bismarck Public Schools (BPS) and the Human Relations Committee. Tomanek met with Superintendent Jason Hornbacher to discuss initiating the student liaison program and student essay and poetry contest. Hornbacher provided Tomanek with contact information and is supportive of the collaboration. The HRC will not speak at the August BPS board meeting as discussed at the June 21, 2021 meeting. Tomanek will continue to act as a liaison between BPS and the HRC.

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

4. Other Business

1. Sargianna Wutzke opened a discussion about recording messages for Dakota Media Access to run and scheduling speaking arrangements with various news stations. Member Wutzke asked the committee about possible talking points for interviews. The committee agreed that they should reach out to the news leaders before committee events, such as the cultural dinner, for appearances on their shows.

2. The committee discussed the attendance policy and reminded members that they are expected to attend 8 out of the 12 yearly meetings. Whitnie Olsen will provide Chair Andahl the attendance list, and she will reach out to those who have missed three or more meetings thus far in 2021.

Adjournment

