



Bismarck Human Relations Committee

2/28/2022 - Minutes

Call To Order

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

Roll Call

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

HRC Mission

The mission was read by Vice-Chair Vannett.

1. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

2. Approval Of Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chair Vannett called for consideration of the January 10, 2022, meeting minutes.

Motion: Sargianna Wutzke motioned to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2022, meeting as presented. Thea Jorgensen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved, with committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion.

3. 2021 HRC Goals

A. Build Committee Recognition

- Members Grueneich and Wutzke reported that they recently did interviews with local television and radio stations to talk about the HRC and their current projects like the

Humanitarian Award and Essay & Poetry Contest.

- The group discussed contacting service clubs and organizations to request an opportunity to speak in front of the clubs about the HRC's mission, projects, and community involvement.

B. Diversity University

1. Hosted Events

- Jason Tomanek presented information he received from Kim Hertz with Bismarck Public Schools (BPS). Her program is not ready to host the cultural dinner this spring as the committee had hoped. Tomanek also reported that they would be interested in having guest speakers come into the cultural cooking classes. The committee discussed speaking to the classes but agreed that they are not able to do it at this time. In the fall, they will reach out to BPS to arrange the cultural dinner for November.
- Member Wutzke noted that she has been researching movie options for an HRC-hosted film night but does not have one selected at this time.

2. Partnered Events

- Families Around the World | March 21, 2022
 - The committee will conduct their scheduled meeting and conclude in time to transition to their participation at the Families Around the World Event.
- Band Night Parade | May 13, 2022
 - Jason Tomanek let the committee know that he has been discussing the parade with the organizers and has let them know that the HRC plans to participate.

C. Youth Engagement

- The group discussed finding different ways to engage with youth in the community. Due to the lack of submissions over the past few years, they considered changing the format of the poetry and essay contest to a visual art contest. The group agreed to add this to the April 2022 agenda for further discussion.

D. Municipal Equality Index Rating

- Member Grueneich has reached out to the National Human Rights Coalition but has not received a response yet.

4. Other Business

1. The Committee reviewed the draft Annual Report to be presented to the Bismarck City Commission on March 8, 2022. Member Wutzke will be giving the report, and all members are encouraged to attend the meeting.
2. The HRC members reviewed the nominations for the Humanitarian Award.
 - Jason Grueneich made a motion to accept the nomination for the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library as the Humanitarian Organization for 2022. Thea Jorgensen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved, with committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion.
 - Sargianna Wutzke made a motion to accept Geraldine Ambe as the Humanitarian for 2022. Thea Jorgensen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved, with committee members in attendance voting in favor of the motion.

Adjournment

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