

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMISSION
Thursday, January 4, 2024 | 12:00PM
City Commission Chambers
AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approve Agenda & Minutes.....Action Item
3. Public Comment
4. Indigenous Association Report
5. Subcommittee Reports
6. Staff Reports
7. Announcements
8. Adjourn

Native American Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel TV Fargo 56 and can be seen live by video stream on www.FargoND.gov/streaming. They are rebroadcast each Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. and Thursday at 5:00 p.m. Minutes are available on the City of Fargo Web site at <http://fargond.gov/city-government/boards-commissions/native-american-commission>.



People with disabilities who plan to attend the meeting and need special accommodations should contact the Planning Office at 701.241.1474. Please contact us at least 48 hours before the meeting to give our staff adequate time to make arrangements.

**BOARD OF NATIVE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES**

Regular Meeting:

Thursday, November 2, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Native American Commissioners of the City of Fargo, North Dakota, was held in the Commission Chambers at City Hall at 12:00 p.m., Thursday, November 2, 2023.

**No Quorum in order to have official meeting – meeting commenced with informal presentations and discussion.

The Native American Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Whitney Johnson, Ashley Littlewolf, Suzanne Senske

Absent: Emily Sargent, Dale Sayers, Amanda Strauss

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Johnson welcomed Members to the meeting and introductions were made.

Item 2. Approve Order of Agenda & Minutes

Due to lack of quorum, no action was taken.

Item 3: Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Item 4: 2024 Meeting Schedule

Chair Johnson presented the 2024 Meeting Schedule, noting meetings will be held bimonthly and there will be a Board retreat in July if possible.

Item 5. Indigenous Association Report

Chair Johnson gave a brief update for the Indigenous Association. She stated the events for Indigenous Peoples' day went well. Ms. Johnson also shared that a screening for a film Ruth Buffalo is in was held and the film is available through Prairie Public.

Assistant Planner Catlyn Christie shared that Brandon Baity was presented with the Gladys Ray Award.

Item 6. Subcommittee Reports

Chair Johnson gave an update on the Health and Wellness subcommittee stating that she and Member Sargent held a training on generational trauma at the Hjemkomst Center on Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Member Senske shared there were about 40 kids in attendance for the Back to School Night hosted by the Indian Education subcommittee and the Indian Education Board. She also noted that they are looking forward to partnering with the Indian Education Board to help provide additional school supplies, classroom supplies, and athletic equipment.

Item 7. Staff Reports

Planning Coordinator Kim Citrowske introduced herself and invited the Board to participate in the survey for the Fargo Growth Plan and encouraged them to share the survey with others. She stated the survey can be found at fargogrowthplan.org.

Item 8. Announcements

Board Members announced that there are many community events coming up in November for Native American Heritage Month.

- Author Talk with author Marcie Rendon, November 8 at MSUM (Minnesota State University Moorhead)
- Presentation of Anishinaabe Star Knowledge, November 18 at 11:00 a.m. and November 19 at 3:00 p.m. at MSUM (Minnesota State University Moorhead)
- Talk by Dr. Denise Lajimodiere, on her book, *Stringing Rosaries*, November 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hjemkomst Center
 - o This Event will be followed by the opening of the exhibit *Away from Home: American Indian Boarding School Stories*.
- PANGEA: Cultivate Our Cultures event, November 18, 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- NDSU (North Dakota State University) events can be found on their website or Facebook.
- Oscar Howe Exhibit, November 2, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Plains Art Museum

Chair Johnson reminded everyone that December 21 is Homeless Memorial Day and there will events announced at a later time.

9. Adjourn

The time of adjournment was 12:22 p.m.

**BOARD OF NATIVE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES**

Regular Meeting:

Thursday, September 7, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Native American Commissioners of the City of Fargo, North Dakota, was held in the Commission Chambers at City Hall at 12:00 p.m., Thursday, September 7, 2023.

The Native American Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Whitney Johnson (via conference call), Emily Sargent (via conference call), Ashley Littlewolf, Amanda Strauss, Dale Sayers (via conference call)

Absent: Suzanne Senske

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Johnson welcomed Members to the meeting and introductions were made.

Item 2. Approve Order of Agenda & Minutes

Member Littlewolf moved the Order of Agenda and the minutes of the July 7, 2023 Native American Commission meeting be approved. Second by Member Sargent. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 3: Public Comment

Reverend Karen Van Fossan, Justice for Shane, requested a copy of the letter that is to be sent from the Native American Commission to the Fargo City Commission regarding an independent investigation in the police involved shooting of Shane Netterville. She also asked the Board when the Fargo Police would be coming to a Native American Commission meeting to speak with the Board and community.

Chair Johnson stated the letter to the Fargo City Commission is being finalized and a copy will be provided to Justice for Shane when it is available. Ms. Johnson shared that a date has not been set for the Fargo Police to speak with the Board and the community.

Item 4: Presentation: Savanna Greywind Day

Ruth Buffalo and Mia Buffalo gave a presentation on creating a day of recognition for Savanna Greywind.

Discussion was held regarding expectations of Savanna's family for the proposal, and how the Board would be able to assist with the request.

Assistant Planner Catlyn Christie stated that a navigating team could be created to help work with the Mayor's office to define a path forward for the request.

Members Littlewolf and Sayers shared that they would like to be involved.

Item 5. Indigenous Peoples' Day – October 9

a. Gladys Ray Award Nominations Due September 22

Chair Johnson stated that there will be a breakfast kickoff at the Indigenous Association and encouraged the Native American Commission Members to attend. She also shared that the Gladys Ray Award will be presented at the breakfast and nomination forms are available online and in paper. Ms. Johnson noted more details are to come regarding a Lunch and Learn for community members and professionals at the Hjemkomst Center.

Item 6. Truth & Reconciliation Day – September 30

Chair Johnson noted the Native American Commission would be submitting a request for a city-wide proclamation to recognize September 30 as Truth & Reconciliation Day. Ms. Johnson shared that she and Member Sargent created an educational video regarding Truth & Reconciliation Day that can be viewed on the Native American Commission's webpage.

Item 7. Indigenous Association Report

Chair Johnson directed those who wanted to know what events were upcoming to visit the Indigenous Association's webpage.

Item 8. Subcommittee Reports

Chair Johnson shared that she and Member Sargent met with the States Attorney's office back in May and the visit went well.

Member Littlewolf stated since school is back in session she is hoping to set up a time to meet with West Fargo Indian Education to discuss goals for this year.

Ms. Johnson noted that no one is on the Housing Subcommittee and asked if any Members would like to volunteer.

Item 9. Staff Reports

Dr. Terry Hogan, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, shared that his department has instituted a development and training plan for the City Cabinet Members in which they will be taking IDI (Intercultural Development Inventory) assessments and learning about biases.

Item 10. Announcements

Member Littlewolf stated she would be interested in being part of the Housing Subcommittee.

Discussion was held regarding Member Littlewolf joining the Housing Subcommittee.

Member Strauss commented that she would like to be involved with assisting with the creation of Savanna Greywind Day.

Chair Johnson shared that there is one vacancy for the Native American Commission and the application process will be open until September 18, 2023 with the application and information available on the City of Fargo website.

She also shared that the Fargo Moorhead Indian Education Back to School Bash is tonight from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Fargo Public School District Office and the Native American Education Program Back to School Night is September 22 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Item 11. Adjourn

The time of adjournment was 12:33 p.m.