

**BOARD OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting:**

**Thursday:**

**February 18, 2016:**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Human Relations Commissioners of the City of Fargo, North Dakota, was held in the City Commission Room at City Hall at 12:00 o'clock p.m., Thursday, February 18, 2016.

The Human Relations Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Rachel Hoffman, Abdiwali Sharif-Abdinasir, David Lanpher,  
Laetitia Hellerud, Timothy Stone, Hassan Lamba

Absent: Keith Bjornson, Tanya RedRoad

Also Present: Kristina Kaupa, Dan Mahli, Cristie Jacobsen (Fargo Police)

**Item 1. Welcome and Introductions**

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

**Item 2. Approve Order of Agenda**

Mr. Lanpher moved the Order of Agenda be approved as presented. Second by Ms. Hellerud. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 3. Minutes: Regular Meeting of December 17, 2015**

Mr. Lanpher moved the minutes of the December 17, 2015 Human Relations Commission meeting be approved. Second by Mr. Stone. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 4. Public Comment (12:15)**

No public comments were made.

**Item 5. Funding Updates**

The Board was presented a handout of the Human Relations Commission's budget including a breakdown of recurring, anticipated sponsorships the Board reviews for approval each year. Staff's recommendation is for the Human Relations Commission to pre-approve the listed funding amounts, with an additional \$3,000 to be reserved for unanticipated requests.

Ms. Hellerud moved to approve the Fargo Human Relations Commission budget, pending submittal of applications from the organizations identified as "anticipated sponsorships". Second by Mr. Sharif-Abdinasir. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

The following funding requests were reviewed:

- 1) Lutheran Social Services – New American Services funding request for \$1500 to assist with costs of Building Bridges Conference in April 2016

Board Members discussed the amount of the funding request as well as conditions that the request cannot cover food costs.

Ms. Hellerud moved the funding request be approved for \$500, with the stipulation that the request excludes food expenses. Second by Mr. Lanpher. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

- 1) Concordia College/Washington Elementary School funding request for \$500 to assist with the “I Am Hungry!” Project which includes costs for workbook materials that will be utilized as a teaching tool in classrooms at Washington Elementary to help students learn about hunger in the Fargo area and assist in community outreach

Discussion was held regarding concerns with the Human Relation Commission’s remaining, available funding for the year if this request is approved for \$500.

Mr. Lanpher moved the funding request be approved for \$250 for the cost of printing 35 copies of the Metro COG Report on Hunger. Second by Ms. Hellerud. All Members present vote aye and the motion was declared carried.

- 2) North Dakota Women’s Network funding request for \$500 to assist with the International Women’s Day Celebration

Board Members noted their concerns over the lack of information given on the expenses that will be covered with this funding request.

Mr. Lanpher moved the funding request be approved for \$250, with the stipulation that the approved request covers eligible expenses and pending on clarification from the organization regarding what the money will be used for at this event. Second by Mr. Stone. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

- 3) Metro Area Mayors Committee funding request for \$125 to sponsor a table at the awards banquet and to provide funds for individuals with disabilities who need financial assistance going back to work or staying on the job

Ms. Hoffman noted this request has been approved in accordance with the anticipated, recurring sponsorships of the Human Relations Commission that were approved with the annual budget.

**Item 6. Presentation by High Plains Fair Housing Center (12:30)**

Michelle Rydz, High Plains Fair Housing Center, provided a summary of this organization’s roles and mission which is to strengthen communities and to ensure equal access to fair housing in the region through training, education, enforcement, and

advocacy. She reviewed discrimination trends including information on discriminatory advertising, lending discrimination, discrimination based on receipt of public assistance, and discrimination-based disability. She stated more information can be found on their website at [www.highplainsfhc.org](http://www.highplainsfhc.org) or by phone at 701-792-2878.

**Item 7. Other Business and Announcements**

**a. Calendar of Events**

A calendar of Human Relations Commission events was presented to the Board Members, which will be updated with other events throughout the year.

**b. Strategic Planning**

Dates for the Human Relations Commission Strategic Planning process will be announced at a later date.

Ms. Hoffman stated there will be an update to the Human Relations Commission sponsorship application language to provide more clarification on the funding.

Board Members discussed moving the sponsorship request deadline to the end of the month so the requests can be reviewed before the Executive Committee meets instead of during the week the committee meets.

Ms. Hoffman noted Human Relations Commission Member Waseem Altaf has moved and therefore will no longer serve on the Human Relations Commission; she thanked him for his work and time on this Board.

Community Development Assistant Kristina Kaupa stated Concordia College is holding a 2016 Faith, Reason and World Affairs Symposium and has invited members of the Human Relations Commission to be a part of a panel that helps build bridges and helps students understand their immediate social context.

**Item 8. Adjourn**

The time at adjournment was 1:20 p.m.