



**NATIVE AMERICAN COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, March 3, 2022 | 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. Announcements
7. Staff Report
8. Adjourn for Bylaws Work Session

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](http://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, December 2, 2021**

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, December 2, 2021.

The Native American Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Lenore King, Whitney Fear, Sonya Donahue, Emily Sargent, Rebecca Knutson, Ashley Littlewolf

Absent: Sharon White Bear, Chalsey Snyder, John Strand

**Item 1. Welcome and Introductions**

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

**Item 2. Approve Order of Agenda & Minutes**

Member Fear moved the Order of Agenda and the minutes of the October 7, 2021 Native American Commission meeting be approved. Second by Member Knutson. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 3: Public Comment**

Tracey Wilkie spoke on behalf of the North Dakota Federations of Families for Children's Mental Health. She noted the organization is looking for more families to serve in this part of the state.

Ms. Wilkie additionally noted, on December 7, there will be a Wisdom of Trauma event at the Fargo Theatre at 7 p.m. She provided an overview of a 12-week healing program being offered through HeartSprings Community Healing Center.

**Item 4: Elections**

Chair King provided an overview of the bylaws regarding officer elections and spoke on behalf of the nominating committee. She noted Member Fear will transition to the Native American Commission Chair position in January and the nominating is recommending Member Emily Sargent for Vice Chair.

Member Knutson moved to appoint Emily Sargent as Vice Chair of the Native American Commission. Second by Member Fear. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 5. 2022 Meeting Schedule**

Chair King noted the 2022 meeting schedule is included in the packet.

**Item 6. Indigenous Association Report**

Member Fear shared that many events were held for Indigenous Peoples Day and Native American Heritage Month, adding that an overview of the events was provided at the October Native American Commission meeting. She noted that things are going well and the Indigenous Association board has developed subcommittees.

**Item 7. Subcommittee Reports**

Member Knutson noted that the education subcommittee recently met and they are planning to meet in January with representatives of the Indian Education Program.

No updates were provided from the housing or health subcommittees.

**Item 8. Announcements**

Member Fear shared that Tuesday, December 21 is Homeless Memorial Day and a gathering event will be held. She encouraged residents to check shelters websites to see what needs they have.

Member Fear stated that COVID vaccines are available at Fargo Cass Public Health.

**Item 9. Staff Report**

Planning Coordinator Tia Braseth additionally shared that COVID vaccines are available at many local pharmacies; if Members know of residents in need of rental assistance, they are encouraged to have them call 211; and proposals will be accepted for HOME and CDBG funds from December 8-31.

Sgt. Cristie Jacobsen, Fargo Police Department, stated that applications are being accepted for employment as well as the summer police academy.

**Item 10. Adjourn**

The time of adjournment was 12:19 p.m.

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Fargo Native American Commission  
**FROM:** Catlyn Christie, Assistant Planner  
**DATE:** February 25, 2022  
**RE:** Staff Report

This agenda item is an effort to summarize and memorialize issues, concerns, or staff action related to the work of the Native American Commission since the last meeting. During the meeting, the Chair may open for discussion or questions concerning these items.

**1. COVID-19 Vaccinations and Testing**

FCPH continues to provide COVID-19 vaccine *by appointment only* in the Immunization Clinic. The clinic operates Monday from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., and Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and is located in the main FCPH building at 1240 25th Street South in Fargo. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 701.241.1383. Visit our [COVID-19 Vaccine page](#) for more information.

For testing and screening, PCR testing and BinaxNOW Rapid Screening are provided Monday – Friday from 8 am to 5 pm at 3051 25<sup>th</sup> Street South, Fargo, Suite K. Pre-registration is required and can be completed at <https://testreg.nd.gov/>. There is no cost for testing and screening.

**2. Rental Assistance & Eviction Prevention**

Anyone struggling to pay rent is encouraged to call 2-1-1 (FirstLink) to be connected to rental assistance and other eviction prevention programs currently available. They will direct individuals to the best-fit assistance, such as the North Dakota Rent Help program, <https://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/covid-19/rent-help.html>, or other assistance available through SENDCAA and Presentation Partners in Housing.

The High Plains Fair Housing Center also continues to offer an eviction prevention program to income-qualified residents living in Fargo (as well as Grand Forks and Bismarck). If eligible, potential eviction prevention services offered include referral to and help applying for rental assistance programs and/or connection to a lawyer at no cost for assistance in eviction court. Call the intake line at 701-203-1077 or toll free at 1-866-380-2738.

**3. HUD Programs**

Staff is currently in the process of analyzing needs and preparing plans for both the HOME-ARP homeless assistance funds and the regular 2022 allocation of HUD funds.

**Timeline for 2022 & HOME-ARP Funds**

March	Solicitation for proposals for the HOME-ARP funds
April	Draft plan expected for both 2022 & HOME ARP funds
May	30-day comment period and public hearing held at City Commission
June – August	Begin projects associated with these funds

#### **4. Planning Department Updates**

Planning Department staff are looking forward to a busy year ahead. Our priority activities include:

- Downtown InFocus review and status update with consultants Interface Studio.
- Core Neighborhood Plan next steps, including code enforcement focus, housing rehab focus, and growth plan focus as main priorities
- Onboarding two new staff members to round out the Long Range Planning division
- Housing needs analysis and housing strategy
- Homeless strategy development
- Public Arts initiatives
- Continuity of operations
- Land Development Code initiative

#### **5. Human Rights Commission Transition**

On December 27, 2021, the Fargo City Commission approve the renaming of the Human Relations Commission's to be called the Human Rights Commission. It is staffed by Dr. Terry Hogan, the City's Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The HRC also approved a new Mission and Vision statement.

**Mission:** The Fargo Human Relations Commission provides leadership and education in areas of civil rights, to eliminate discrimination against persons because of color, creed, religion, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or marital status. It encourages adherence to civil rights through education, conciliation, and mediation. It identifies human and civil rights-related concerns of the public and recommends policies to the board of city commissioners that protect and preserve individual rights.

**Vision:** The city of Fargo strives to be an equitable, inclusive community where all residents feel accepted, respected, and safe. The Fargo Human Relations Commission is a diverse group of individuals that advises the City of Fargo in protecting and preserving human and civil rights and brings a voice to the unheard.

#### **6. Call for Public Art Projects**

The City of Fargo's Arts and Culture Commission (ACC) has issued a Call for Public Art Projects. The community is invited to propose a public art project (visual or performance-based, permanent or temporary, free and accessible) to improve the community. The application process closes on March 18, 2022. The full description of the ACC 2022 Call for Public Art Projects, criteria details and the application questions can be found at [FargoND.Gov/CallForPublicArtProjects](http://FargoND.Gov/CallForPublicArtProjects).

#### **7. The Fargo Police Department and The Downtown Community Partnership To Co-Host "Downtown Download"**

The Fargo Police Department (FPD) and the Downtown Community Partnership (DCP) co-hosted a "Downtown Download" public meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 9 a.m. During the meeting, the Fargo Police Department introduced the new Downtown Resource Officers and lead discussions related to the topics of homelessness, downtown parking, food cart concerns, the FPD Downtown Substation and additional plans for 2022. A recording is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMHuRYDH42E>.

#### **8. Fargo Public Schools Native American Culture Week**

During February 7-11 a.k.a. "Kindness Week", Fargo Public Schools employed Native American Cultural Teachings to infuse the concepts of kindness, problem solving, teamwork, family, and friends to help guide students in how they work through challenges in their lives. During Native American Culture Week, they conducted a unit with fourth graders learning about Dream Catchers and a unit with fifth graders learning about Identity Shields.