

**BOARD OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES**

Regular Meeting:

Thursday:

April 21, 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, April 21, 2016.

The Human Relations Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Rachel Hoffman, Abdiwali Sharif-Abdinasir, Tanya RedRoad, Laetitia Hellerud, Keith Bjornson, Timothy Stone

Absent: David Lanpher, Hassan Lamba

Also Present: Tony Gehrig (City Commission Liaison), Cristie Jacobsen (Fargo Police), Kristina Kaupa (City of Fargo)

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

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

Item 2. Presentation – Troy Seibel, Commissioner of Labor, North Dakota Department of Labor and Human Rights

Troy Seibel, Commissioner of Labor with the North Dakota Department of Labor and Human Rights, gave a presentation on “Hot Button” Human Rights Issues and noted this department is responsible for enforcing state and federal labor and human rights laws, as well as educating the public about these laws. He discussed Human Rights issues including: 1) legalization of same-sex marriage, 2) sexual orientation/gender identity discrimination, 3) reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers, 4) retaliation claims, 5) human trafficking, and 6) Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) enforcement priorities. He added the department can be contacted by phone at 701-328-2660 or toll free at (800)-582-8032; their e-mail is labor@nd.gov and the website is www.nd.gov/labor.

Discussion was held regarding the complaints submittal process for public accommodations in relation to a complaint submitted to a local establishment not having tables that accommodated wheelchairs.

Item 3. Approve Order of Agenda

Chair Hoffman noted the addition of an item titled “Gateways for Growth” under the “Other Business and Announcements” section, which will follow Item 4 on the agenda.

Mr. Stone moved the Order of Agenda be approved as presented. Second by Mr. Sharif-Abdinasir. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 4. Minutes: Regular Meetings of February 18 and March 17, 2016

Mr. Stone moved the minutes of the February 18 and March 17, 2016 Human Relations Commission meetings be approved. Second by Ms. Hellerud. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 5. Public Comment (12:45)

No public comments were made.

Item 6. Funding Requests and Updates

The following funding requests were reviewed:

- 1) Fargo-Moorhead Coalition for Homeless Persons' funding request for \$500 to assist with the Project Community Connect and 2nd Chance Employment Fair Event.

Chair Hoffman noted this funding request was continued from the March Human Relations Commission meeting, due to the lack of a quorum.

Mr. Stone moved the funding request be approved for \$500. Second by Ms. Hellerud. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

- 2) Inspire Innovation Lab - Women's Startup Weekend funding request for \$1,000 to assist with scholarships to be given out at the event.

Ms. Hellerud moved the funding request be approved for up to \$150 to support scholarships for two individuals. Second by Mr. Stone. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 7. Other Business and Announcements

This item was presented after Item 4.

Gateways for Growth

Community Development Assistant Kristina Kaupa presented this item stating the City of Fargo in partnership with the New American Consortium applied to participate in the Gateways for Growth Challenge, which is being hosted by the Partnership for a New American Economy and Welcoming America. She stated this challenge invited communities across the United States to apply for research, technical assistance, and matching grants to support the development and implementation of multi-sector strategic plans for welcoming and integrating new Americans. She noted Fargo was one of the communities selected for research and technical assistance. Gateways for Growth will be collecting data and conducting research regarding the economic roles of foreign-born people in the Fargo-Moorhead-West Fargo community. She requested the Human Relations Commission review and ask questions of this challenge; support the City of Fargo's participation in the collection and results of this data; and for the Human Relations Commission to serve as a place for this data to go once it is provided to staff in June.

Ms. RedRoad moved the Human Relations Commission support the Gateways for Growth Challenge and agree to serve as a representative in this process by addressing issues and learning about the economic roles of immigrants in the community. Second by Mr. Sharif-Abdinasir. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 8. Adjourn

The time at adjournment was 1:08 p.m.