BOARD OF NATIVE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

Regular Meeting: **Thursday, July 6, 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, July 6, 2023.

The Native American Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Whitney Fear, Emily Sargent, Sharon White Bear, Ashley Littlewolf, Dale Sayers, Suzanne Senske

Absent: Amanda Strauss

Also Present: City Commissioner John Strand

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions
Chair Fear welcomed Members to the meeting and introductions were made.

Willard Yellow Bird, Jr. opened the meeting with a prayer and the Buffalo River Singers performed an honor song.

Item 2. Approve Order of Agenda & Minutes
Member Sayers moved the Order of Agenda and the minutes of the May 4, 2023 Native American Commission meeting be approved. Second by Member Littlewolf. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 3: Public Comment
Reverend Karen Van Fossan, Authentic Ministry and Justice for Shane, invited the Board to the remembrance ceremony for Shane Netterville at his graveside in the Springvale Cemetery, 11:00 a.m., on July 8, 2023. She noted there will be a free community meal to follow at the main Fargo Public Library starting at 1:00 p.m.

Discussion was held regarding the police involved shooting death of Shane Netterville and the logistics to having an independent investigation done, and the possibility of having the Fargo Police attend a Native American Commission meeting to facilitate discussion on past police involved shootings in Fargo.

Member Senske made a motion to reinforce the Native American Commission's support in having an independent investigation done in the police involved shooting death of Shane Netterville and to submit the support in the form of a letter to City leadership. Second by Member Sargent. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Member White Bear motioned to amend the motion to include having the police attend a Native American Commission meeting to facilitate discussion on police involved shooting deaths in Fargo. Second by Member Sargent. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 4: Honoring of New and Outgoing Members
Chair Fear thanked outgoing Member Sharon White Bear. A star quilt was presented to former Member White Bear.

Willard Yellow Bird, Jr. gave a blessing and Quinten Yellow Bird performed a smudging for outgoing Members John Strand, Sharon White Bear and Member Senske. The Buffalo River Singers performed a prayer song.

Item 5. Special Election for Vice Chair
The nominating committee recommended Member Littlewolf to serve as Vice Chair of the Native American Commission.

Member White Bear motioned to appoint Member Littlewolf as Vice Chair of the Native American Commission for a term starting at the next meeting through December 2024. Second by Member Senske. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 6. Tera-Lise Orr, FCPH WIC Nutritionist & Breastfeeding Coordinator
Tera-Lise Orr and Candy Smith presented on their work with the Women Infants and Children nutrition and breastfeeding program, and the Indigenous Association.

Discussion was held regarding the breast feeding consultation services that are offered, how the program works, the plan to reach rural areas of North Dakota, the need for licensed lactation consultants in North Dakota, how people can become licensed, and funding sources for Native Americans to become a licensed lactation consultants in North Dakota.

Item 7. Indigenous Association Report
Brandon Baity, Interim Executive Director of the Indigenous Association, shared his gratitude for the Native American Commission for starting the Indigenous Association. He shared on the growth of the Indigenous Association and the types of classes that are being offered. Mr. Baity noted the Native American Picnic will be August 19, from 12 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at MB Johnson Park in Moorhead, MN. He also shared that more information for the Indigenous Association events and classes can be found on their website at indgns.org, or the Facebook page at facebook.com/indigenousassociation.

Item 8. Subcommittee Reports
No subcommittee reports were given.

Chair Fear suggested that the Native American picnic be shared on the Native American Commission Facebook page. She also invited the Fargo Police and Fargo Fire to the Native American picnic.

Item 9. Staff Reports
No staff reports were given.

Item 10. Announcements
Ruth Buffalo, Member of the Not Invisible Act Commission, shared the purpose, mission and end goal of the Not Invisible Act Commission. She also shared about the Field Hearings that have been held and the purpose of the hearings. Ms. Buffalo invited those who have been impacted by the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples crisis to submit testimony to the Not Invisible Act Commission with a deadline of, August 10, 2023. She noted there will be a Field Hearing at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center in Billings, Montana on July 25-26, 2023. Travel assistance will be provided for those who need it, and more information can be found on the U.S. Indian Affairs website and social media.

Item 11. Adjourn
The time of adjournment was 1:02 p.m.