

BOARD OF NATIVE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

Regular Meeting:

Thursday, August 4, 2022

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, August 4, 2022.

The Native American Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

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

Absent: Sharon White Bear, Suzanne Senske

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

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

Item 2. Approve Order of Agenda & Minutes

Chair Fear requested an amendment to the agenda to add Jan Nelson and a presentation from HeartSprings after Item 3. Member Littlewolf moved the Order of Agenda with the amendment to Item 3 and the minutes of the Thursday, May 5, 2022 Native American Commission meeting be approved. Second by Member Sayers. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 3: Public Comment

Sandra Berlin spoke on the needs of the Native Americans experiencing homelessness within the City of Fargo. Ms. Berlin also gave information on the Sweet Medicine art studio located at the Downtown Engagement Center.

Zyanya Berlin spoke on the donation drive she put together for Overdose Awareness Day on August 31. She stated the items needed are backpacks, purses and hygiene products. Items can be dropped off at the Downtown Engagement Center.

Jan Nelson from HeartSprings gave a short presentation on the Mind Body Group for women. She stated the next group will be starting on September 22.

A brief discussion was held regarding the Mind Body Group for women.

Item 4: Indigenous Association Report

Brandon Baity gave an update on the Native Youth Series, noting it has been well attended and there will be more classes this summer. He offered promotion of community events on the Indigenous Association website, and use of their space in the Plains Art Museum. Mr. Baity stated the Native American Community picnic will be held at M.B. Johnson Park in Moorhead, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., on August 20.

Item 5. Subcommittee Reports

No Subcommittee Reports were presented.

Item 6. Staff Report

Deputy Fire Marshall Jamie Garvey stated the Fargo Fire Department recruitment and orientation days will be held on August 17 and 23 at 6:00 p.m., at Station #4, located at 2701 1st Avenue North. He noted more information can be obtained at Fargofire.com.

Sgt. Cristie Jacobsen shared the Fargo Police Department is actively hiring and recruiting for the winter academy. She noted more information can be found on the Fargo Police website. Sgt. Jacobsen also shared the Fargo Pride in the Park event will be held on August 13 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Assistant Planner Catlyn Christie gave updates on housing and community art projects supported by the Arts and Culture Commission. She shared that Fargo Cass Public Health is hosting back to school immunization events on August 17 and 18 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sgt. Jacobsen also shared that the United Way is hosting a backpack and school supply giveaway on August 9 and 10 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and August 11 from 11:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Scheels Arena parking lot.

Harm Reduction Specialist Jordan Beyer shared that for Overdose Awareness day they will add the names and or photos of those who have passed away from overdoses onto the mural located on the back of the Engagement Center. He stated they will be taking names and/or photos to put on the mural until August 31.

Brief discussion was held regarding fentanyl prevalence and overdoses in the community.

Item 7. Announcements

No announcements were made.

Item 8. Adjourn

The time of adjournment was 12:56 p.m.