

MEMORANDUM

TO: Native American Commission
FROM: Tia Braseth, Community Development Coordinator
DATE: September 25, 2020
SUBJECT: Fargo Native American Commission Meeting

The next meeting of the Fargo Native American Commission will be held on Thursday, October 1, at 12:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers at Fargo City Hall. If you are not able to attend, please contact staff at 701.241.1474 or Planning@FargoND.gov.

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMISSION

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approve Agenda & Minutes Action Item
3. Public Comment
4. Subcommittees and Work Plan Action Item
5. Old Business
 - a. Indigenous Association Update
 - b. Indigenous Peoples' Day – October 12, 2020
6. Announcements
7. Staff Report
8. Next Meeting – November 5, 2020

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. They are rebroadcast each Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. and Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

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.

Minutes are available on the City of Fargo Web site at <http://fargond.gov/city-government/boards-commissions/native-american-commission>.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Native American Commission
FROM: Catlyn Christie, Assistant Planner
DATE: September 25, 2020
SUBJECT: Meeting Report

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

Item 2. Approve Agenda & Minutes

Chair King will seek a motion to approve or amend the agenda.

Recommended Action: Approve the October 1, 2020 agenda.

Recommended Action: Approve the minutes of the September 3, 2020 meeting.

Item 3. Public Comment – Citizens to be Heard

Chair King will open the floor to public comment. Citizens who wish to address the Native American Commission must use the sign-in sheet. Speakers must state their name at the microphone and will be limited to two minutes. Comments should not contain profanity or personal attacks. At the chair's discretion, an overall time limit may be placed on this agenda item.

Item 4. Subcommittees and Work Plan

See attached memo.

Recommended Motion: Approve chair for each subcommittee.

Follow-Up Action: Provide feedback on ideal format and frequency of regular board meetings versus subcommittee meetings, including preferred way to connect with local partners.

Item 5a. Old Business: Indigenous Association Update

An Indigenous Association representative will provide an update.

Item 5b. Old Business: Indigenous Peoples' Day – October 12, 2020

See attached flyer.

Item 9. Announcements

Chair King will open the floor to commission members for any announcements.

Item 10. Staff Report

See attachment. Chair King will open the floor to commission members for any questions or discussion related to the August staff update.

Item 11. Next Meeting – November 5, 2020

Upon no further business, Chair King will adjourn the meeting.

**BOARD OF NATIVE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES**

Regular Meeting:

Thursday, September 3, 2020

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, September 3, 2020.

The Native American Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Sharon White Bear, John Strand, Anna Johnson, Lenore King, Rebecca Knutson, Chalsey Snyder, Whitney Fear, Heather Keeler

Absent: Sonya Donahue

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

Willard Yellow Bird, Jr. opened the meeting in prayer.

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

Item 2. Approve Order of Agenda & Minutes

Member Snyder moved the Order of Agenda be approved as presented. Second by Member Fear. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Member Snyder moved the minutes of the August 6, 2020 Native American Commission be approved as presented. Second by Member Knutson. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 3: Public Comment

None provided.

Item 4: Presentation: NDSU Land Acknowledgement and Indigenous Efforts

Laura Oster-Aaland and Tara Nelson, North Dakota State University (NDSU) representatives, spoke on the NDSU Land Acknowledgement Statement and other Indigenous efforts being conducted on campus to elevate the institutional awareness of the statement. They thanked the Board for the feedback previously provided on the statement, and noted the statement has not been finalized, but they plan to bring it back before the Native American Commission once it has been.

Discussion was held on the relocation of the Grandmother Earth's Gift of Life Garden on campus, work being done to retain, support, and graduate Native American students, and on ripple effects the statement may have to other entities.

Item 5. Presentation: ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
North Dakota Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health Parent Coordinator Tanya RedRoad presented an overview of the advocacy and support program. She provided a handout to the Board and stated her contact information is tredroad@ndffcmh.com or 701.235.9923.

Discussion was held on the age range of students supported, process for support, and if support is only for North Dakota or if it can cross into Moorhead as well.

Item 6. Subcommittees and Work Plan

Chair King noted that several community members have been invited to the meeting to speak on work associated with the Boards Subcommittees.

Gladys Ray Shelter representative Leah Siewert-Oberg provided an overview of the shelter and its history. She noted that housing barriers have been lowered or removed due to COVID-19, making housing people easier. They have been able to provide housing for more individuals.

Discussion was held on how the Board can connect with the work that is being done at the Gladys Ray Shelter, landlord education and regulations, support items needed to furnish newly housed individuals, and numbers of individuals being served.

Delores Gabbard spoke on behalf of the Moorhead Indian Education Program. She provided an overview of the number of Native American students in the Moorhead School District, noted the current district schedule, and talked about the needs of students and their families.

Discussion was held on face mask availability for students through the Indigenous Association, and school supply distribution.

Member Knutson stated that Melody Staebner, the Director of the Fargo/West Fargo Indian Education, was unable to attend today's meeting. A calendar handout was provided of Indian Education events for the school year to the Board.

Member Knutson read a statement from Ms. Staebner highlighting the school supply drive and distribution, professional development for staff, and school year events. More information can be obtained by calling 701.446.3052 or through the website www.fargo.k12.nd.us/indianeducation.

Chair King noted that the subcommittees have been formed and next steps are choosing chairs for the subcommittees.

Member Strand requested to be added to the Housing Subcommittee.

Item 7. COVID-19 Updates

Planning and Development Director Nicole Crutchfield and Assistant Planner Catlyn Christie stated a memo was included in the packet of community funding needs related to COVID-19.

Member Fear stated it is important for community members to stay in the know, check information, and wear masks to protect others.

Item 8. Old Business

a. Indigenous Association Update

Not heard at this time.

b. Indigenous Peoples' Day – October 12, 2020

Not heard at this time.

Item 9. Announcements

Sandy Berlin and Joe Whitehawk provided statements to the Board regarding the adversity coming out around the sweatlodge. They noted the elders want to support and to help the Native American Commission and the community.

Members Fear and Johnson absent.

Ms. Berlin stated any elders that want to be part of discussions can contact her at berlinsandra@yahoo.com.

Item 10. Staff Report

Included in the packet for review.

Item 11. Next Meeting – October 1, 2020

The time of adjournment was 1:10 p.m.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fargo Native American Commission
FROM: Catlyn Christie, Assistant Planner
DATE: September 25, 2020
RE: Subcommittees and Work Plan

Subcommittees are recommended as follows:

Education & Cultural Awareness: Heather Keeler, Rebecca Knutson, Chalsey Snyder

Health & Wellness: Whitney Fear, Anna Johnson, Lenore King

Housing: Sonya Donahue, Sharon White Bear, John Strand

As the bylaws state, each committee should include one NAC member who will serve as the committee chair. Committees are asked to report back to the full NAC quarterly. As a reminder, no action may be taken at standing committee meetings unless previously approved by NAC at large meetings. Any recommendations for action outside previous approval are asked to be brought before the NAC for discussion/vote.

The committee chair and committee are to determine committee goals yearly, including public relations-related goals. The NAC shall determine each committee chair, who will be responsible for organizing quarterly meetings to include community partners and members and will serve as the official contact for the community regarding their designated committee. If an emergency situation requires additional meeting and response, it is the responsibility of the committee chair to organize all additional meetings with the Chair and Vice Chair of NAC.

Recommended Action: Approve committee chair for each committee, or table until next month after further discussion.

Follow-Up Action: Provide feedback on ideal format and frequency of regular board meetings versus subcommittee meetings, including preferred way to connect with local partners.

Consider these questions:

- Last meeting, several guests were invited whose work aligns with NAC subcommittees. What is best way to collaborate with them moving forward?
- How would you prefer to organize goals and an actionable work plan with your subcommittees?
- What would be pros and cons of re-purposing this monthly meeting slot into subcommittee working meetings, with a regular large meeting each quarter?
- What does a successful NAC large meeting look like to you?



2020 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

10:00-11:00am

Opening Ceremony & Grandmother Earth's
Gift of Life Garden Groundbreaking
Online event livestreamed to City of Fargo Facebook

12:00-5:00pm

Virtual programming livestreamed every half hour,
including Native art projects, storytelling, and music
Online event livestreamed to indgns.org ▪ Full schedule forthcoming

12:00-2:00pm

Cultural Competency Lunch & Learn:
Understanding Intergenerational Trauma
Registration required at rb.gy/ueloen

5:00-6:30pm

Keynote speakers and live panel discussion,
featuring Sharon White Bear, Chief Arvol Looking
Horse, and Tyrel Iron Eyes
Online event livestreamed to indgns.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fargo Native American Commission
FROM: Catlyn Christie, Assistant Planner
DATE: September 25, 2020
RE: September 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. Local COVID-19 Response

Staff continues efforts to set up a temporary homeless quarantine and engagement center at the former downtown police station, with the goal to be set-up by November 1. They also continue to support efforts to set up several other supportive services focused on food and shelter for people, such as housing and utility assistance through SENDCAA and enhanced quarantine capacity at the YWCA and Gladys Ray Shelter.

2. Human Relations Commission and Fargo Youth Initiative Subcommittees

HRC members are underway self-organizing into subcommittees to focus on their four work plan strategies: 1) Complete audit on current discrimination complaint process; 2) Implement a bias assessment tool within the City of Fargo; 3) Adopt a community-wide Welcoming Plan; and 4) Determine the future of HRC-related cultural programming and annual events and its role therein.

The Fargo Youth Initiative has defined two focus areas for the 2020-21 school year: Mental Health and Racial Equity. NAC members are encouraged to find connections between the work of these two commissions and the NAC's subcommittees and collaborate on action and common goals. Staff can facilitate introductions to these commissions and subcommittees.

3. Fargo Community Water Tower

The City of Fargo is working with Reach Partners, Inc. and Black Ink Creative Partners for community engagement and design for art on a new water tower near University Drive North and 7th Avenue North. Earlier this month, the team held four Community Conversations about how residents experience Fargo as a community and the team is beginning creative sessions for the art. The design will be completed by the end of October. Community members can learn more by joining the [Fargo Community Water Tower](#) Facebook page.

4. 2021 Budget

The City Commission approved the 2021 budget on Monday, September 21, 2020. It is available for viewing at <https://fargond.gov/city-government/departments/finance/city-budget>.

In this budget, \$30,000 is allocated for the Indigenous Association, the same as 2020. Staff is also proposing to combine budget line items for such that costs incurred for each board are drawn from general Planning funds. Whenever the NAC has an idea or recommendation for a program or item to fund or purchase, it can be vetted through the City purchasing policy and purchased accordingly.

The budget also combines items for all the City boards staffed by the Planning Department including Native American Commission, Human Relations Commission, Arts & Culture Commission, and Fargo Youth Initiative. This way the boards can more easily be funded under general funds and be more flexible. Since the City's purchase policy is the same, the NAC would still be able to support events like Indigenous Peoples' Day, board trainings, outreach materials, technical assistance for policy initiatives, etc. through administrative dollars.

5. Community Development Projects Update

See below summary of community development activities currently underway.

1. Recent Property Sales & Transfers – Updates

- a. 13th Avenue & 7th Street South – Rebuilding Together awarded NSP lots, will build twin home for homeownership with 20 year affordability period, lots initially cleared of blighted homes with NSP
- b. 7th Street & 4th Ave North – Beyond Shelter, Inc. awarded CDBG lots, will build senior rental housing with 20 year affordability period, most of these lots initially cleared of blighted homes with CDBG, one was purchased to provide parking for former Native American Center.
- c. c. 11 11 Ave N. – Public Sale of City-Owned Property
The City will be selling this lot on August 14, 2020 for downtown redevelopment. CDBG funds were used in 2014 to eliminate conditions of blight at this location. With the initial HUD National Objective being met (i.e., blight removal) and no eligible activities proposed or materialized over the past 6 years, the City decided to sell this property. Proceeds from the sale will replenish the local CDBG account and become available for use in the City's upcoming 2020 Action Plan.

2. Gladys Ray Shelter Improvements – CDBG

Work at the GRS is underway and will be completed within the next 6 months. The scope of work includes electrical upgrades, plumbing improvements, HVAC assessment and repair as needed, and finishes (i.e., paint, flooring, bathroom ceilings, & carpentry). In addition to upgrades, CDBG Covid-19 dollars will be proposed for use in assisting the GRS with the purchase of fully partitioned bunk beds. This will help to address covid and social distancing, minimizing spread.

3. HUD Program Updates

- a. HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Monitoring
HUD is required to periodically monitor all of its Grantees. The City of Fargo's CDBG program was monitored remotely in April. No major findings were identified. There will be some minor modifications to the single family rehab program related to lead based paint regulations. Overall, HUD was satisfied with the City's CDBG program.
- b. 5-Year Plan & 2020 Action Plan
TDA Consulting, Inc. is wrapping up its work on the City's 5-Year Plan and 2020 Action Plan. The annual application process will begin in the next 30-60 days and a virtual public meeting will be scheduled this fall for public input. The final plan will be submitted to HUD in December.
- c. CDBG-CV (Covid-19 funding)
The City of Fargo was awarded \$464,253 for use in covid-19 prevention response and prevention. Plans are underway to incorporate this funding into an Action Plan amendment and be used primarily for housing assistance, homeless prevention and diversion, and covid-related equipment needed at the Gladys Ray Shelter. A 5-day public comment period will be conducted within the next 30-60 days to incorporate these dollars.

4. Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative

Gate City Bank launched the NRI program in March and it closes October 31, 2020. So far, a total of 22 applications have been received and 4 applicants have closed on a loan. This program is generally provided year to year in partnership with the City. It provides home rehabilitation loans ranging from \$10,000-\$75,000. More information and the application is available on the City's website.

5. Land Development Code Diagnostic Report & Core Neighborhood Plan

Land Development Code:

<https://fargond.gov/city-government/departments/planning-development/land-usezoning/land-development-code/land-development-code-ldc-diagnostic>

Core Neighborhood Plan:

<https://fargond.gov/city-government/departments/planning-development/plans-studies/coreneighborhoods-plan>