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**NATIVE AMERICAN COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, October 6, 2022 | 12:00PM**  
**City Commission Chambers**  
**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approve Agenda & Minutes.....Action Item
3. Statement on 10/3/22 City Commission Meeting
4. Unbiased Review Firm Initiative.....Action Item
5. Public Comment
6. Truth & Reconciliation Day – September 30
7. Indigenous Peoples’ Day – October 10
8. Indigenous Association Report
9. Subcommittee Reports
10. Staff Reports
11. Announcements
12. Adjourn

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, 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](http://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.



## Native American Commission

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fargo Native American Commission

**FROM:** Whitney Fear, Native American Commission Chair

**DATE:** October 5, 2022

**RE:** Unbiased Review Firm Initiative

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Native American Commission members,

I met with Wes Philome and Faith Shields Dixon for coffee last Friday to discuss a current initiative to have the City of Fargo hire an unbiased, independent firm to review and provide feedback on the fatal Fargo police officer-involved shootings of Shane Netterville, an Indigenous man, and Andrew Martinez, a Hispanic man. They shared that this initiative is something that the family of Shane wish to see come to fruition.

In addition to their concerns about the conclusion of Attorney General Wrigley as the death of Shane Netterville being the result of a justified police shooting, the family of Shane has concerns about how the situation was handled.

They were given very little time to see the body cam footage prior to its release to the public. They were not given an answer about whether Shane received life-preserving measures from first responders after he was shot (the body cam footage ends as the police approach the vehicle). The footage was replayed multiple times during commission meetings and this subjected his family to witnessing the shooting multiple times while police answered questions.

Shane lived for about four hours after he was shot but his family was not contacted until after he died, leaving them with a missed opportunity to have said their final goodbyes and be with him when he passed away. When asked if the person they detained identified Shane that morning, it was claimed they could not answer that.

The report from BCI is absent in what was released to the public. As the family of Shane has expressed their wish to see this review done, I feel that it is important that we honor their wishes by joining the Human Rights Commission and Police Oversight Board in indicating our formal support of this initiative.

Please review the initiative above as well as the information/footage regarding the incidents prior to the meeting tomorrow as this will be a priority item to vote on as a board.

#### **Requested Action:**

That the Native American Commission share a vote of support for the proposed initiative that would have the Human Rights Commission and Police Oversight Board recommend that the City of Fargo hire an unbiased independent firm to review and provide feedback on the fatal Fargo police officer-involved shootings of Shane Netterville, an Indigenous man, and Andrew Martinez, a Hispanic man.

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** Our country was made up of people from every nation on Earth, who are declared equal not only in freedom but also in justice, both of which are essential for a healthy human civilization; and

**WHEREAS,** The Indian Child Welfare Act was established in 1978 with the intention to protect Indigenous children and to promote stability and security of tribes and families. The Act established minimum Federal standards for the removal and placement of Indigenous children in homes that reflect the unique values of their culture; and

**WHEREAS,** The establishment of the Indian Child Welfare Act served as legislative action that led to the dissolution of the routine practice of placement of Indigenous children in residential boarding schools and adoptive homes; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2013, residential school survivor Phyllis Jack Webstad shared the story of having her new orange shirt taken away from her on her first day at boarding school. Since then, orange has been a reminder of how no one cared for her or other Indigenous children. This story was told during the St. Joseph Mission Residential School Commemoration Project and Reunion event in Williams Lake, British Columbia, and served as the inspiration for what became known as “Orange Shirt Day;” and

**WHEREAS,** The House of Commons in Canada has established an official day of remembrance for the children and families affected by residential boarding schools. This is part of the reconciliation process with the First Nations, Inuit and Metis people and is observed annually on September 30th; and

**WHEREAS,** Reconciliation efforts such as the recognition of Indigenous People’s Day in the City of Fargo and Moorhead have led to renewed hope for Indigenous people to feel a sense of worth, care and cohesive belonging in communities through acknowledgement of events in the past.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** That We, Dr. Timothy Mahoney, Mayor of Fargo; Bernie Dardis, Mayor of West Fargo; and Shelly Carlson, Mayor of Moorhead, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 30, 2022 as

## TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION DAY

in the Cities of Fargo, North Dakota, West Fargo, North Dakota, and Moorhead, Minnesota. All cities commit to remaining vigilant in efforts to facilitate continued dialogue with all parties who wish to work collaboratively to address racial inequalities in the metro community.



*Dr. Timothy Mahoney, Mayor  
The City of Fargo*



*Bernie Dardis, Mayor  
City of West Fargo*



*Shelly Carlson, Mayor  
City of Moorhead*





**2022 INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES' DAY  
LUNCH & LEARN:**

# **UNDERSTANDING INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA**

**Monday, October 10**

**12pm-3pm** (bring your own lunch)

**@ Indigenous Association  
720 1st Avenue N, Fargo**

**This event is free of charge** and geared toward all Fargo-Moorhead area professionals with Indigenous clients.

**It will feature the documentary** *Basketball, Water, and the Lost City of Elbowoods*, which describes how the Garrison Dam flooding on the Fort Berthold Reservation in 1953 continues to harm the health and wellbeing of local Native communities today.

**It will be followed by a panel discussion** on how understanding historical traumas supports Native communities and how to be more effective in providing culturally-grounded services.

**A .3 CEU credit is approved** for Social Workers (ND Only) and Counselors (NBCC) for \$10.



**Register by Oct. 9**  
[TINYURL.COM/IPDLUNCH](https://tinyurl.com/ipdlunch)

To learn more about the Native American Commission, visit [www.FargoND.gov/NAC](http://www.FargoND.gov/NAC)





# 2022 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY KICKOFF BREAKFAST



Join us at Indigenous Association for breakfast and stay for the Gladys Ray Award presentation, speakers, and information about Indigenous Peoples Day events happening in the community.

Breakfast starts at 9:30 am and programming starts at 10:00 am

Lunch and Learn will start at Noon



Indigenous Association  
720 1st Ave N  
Fargo, ND 58102



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Friday, September 30

Orange Shirt Day, a.k.a.

Truth & Reconciliation Day

6pm: March for boarding school victims at Fargo Civic Center - please wear orange.



## Thursday, October 6

Native American Commission

12pm: Meeting at Fargo City Commission.



## Monday, October 10

Indigenous Peoples Day

Morning: Breakfast at Indigenous Association

Afternoon: Various community programming

Evening: Community Powwow @ 6pm, Agassiz



## Month of November

Native American Heritage Month

Various community programming



## Ongoing

Community Programs at the  
Indigenous Association

View calendar at [www.indgns.org](http://www.indgns.org)



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Fargo Native American Commission  
**FROM:** Catlyn Christie, Assistant Planner  
**DATE:** December 5, 2022  
**RE:** Subcommittee Reports

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Based on preferences members have submitted, subcommittees are as follows:

**Education & Cultural Awareness:**

Ashley Littlewolf, Amanda Strauss, Suzanne Senske, Seth Holden

**Health & Wellness:**

Emily Sargent, Whitney Fear, Dale Sayers

**Housing:**

Sharon White Bear, John Strand