

**BOARD OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES**

Regular Meeting:

Thursday:

October 20, 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, October 20, 2016.

The Human Relations Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Rachel Hoffman, Abdiwali Sharif-Abdinasir, David Lanpher, Keith Bjornson, Timothy Stone, Paul Jensen, Barry Nelson

Absent: Tanya RedRoad, Laetitia Hellerud, Hassan Lamba

Also Present: Commissioner John Strand, Dan Mahli, Willard Yellow Bird

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

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

Item 2. Approve Order of Agenda

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

Item 3. Minutes: Regular Meeting of September 15, 2016

Mr. Nelson moved the minutes of the September 15, 2016 Human Relations Commission meeting be approved. Second by Mr. Stone. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 4. Presentation: Kate Brick with Partnership for a New American Economy (Call-In)

Kate Brick, Associate Director with Partnership for a New American Economy, presented to the Board demographic and economic contributions of new Americans in the metropolitan area, including spending power and tax contributions; population growth; regions of origin for foreign-born populations; educational and long-term economic impacts; labor force growth; and entrepreneurship.

12:12 p.m. Member Sharif-Abdinasir present.

Discussion ensued regarding the asset of a diverse and highly-educated community, as well as the importance of having resources available to help connect people with jobs that correlate to their skill sets and educational backgrounds.

Christian Harris, Executive Director of the New American Consortium for Wellness and Empowerment, discussed with the Board the background and role of the New American Consortium, and ways they can provide resources to and be a gathering place for newcomers and community members.

Mr. Nelson moved the Human Relations Commission proceed with appointing a Task Force to address concerns, research and identify gaps, recommend solutions to address these

gaps, and provide data to convey cost analysis to the Board at an upcoming meeting. Second by Mr. Bjornson.

Discussion continued regarding the process of creating a Task Force, appointing members to serve on the Task Force, and the projected timeline needed to obtain the requested information.

Mr. Lanpher moved to table Mr. Nelson's previous motion. Second by Mr. Stone. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Mr. Lanpher moved the Human Relations Commission form a working group to define the process, within the next two weeks, for obtaining further information to move forward with on refugee resettlement. Second by Mr. Nelson. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 5. Public Comment (12:30)

No public comments were made.

Item 6. Funding Updates

No funding updates were given.

Item 7. Other Business and Announcements

October – Community Awareness of People with Disabilities Month

Cultural Planner Willard Yellow Bird stated the Cities of Dilworth, Moorhead, Fargo, and West Fargo have signed and passed a proclamation recognizing October 2016 as Community Awareness of People with Disabilities Month.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Committee Update

Mr. Lanpher and Ms. Hoffman stated the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Day event will be held on January 16, 2017 at the Fargo Theatre starting at 6:30 p.m. and noted the deadline for the Human Relations Award nominations is October 28, 2016.

Additional announcements were made as follows:

The North Dakota Human Rights Coalition will hold its 7th Annual Human Rights Summit "Partners in Action" and Arc of Justice Awards on Saturday, November 12, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Dakota Medical Foundation.

Pangea – Cultivate our Cultures event will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead, Minnesota.

An International Potluck will be held October 20, 2016 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Plains Art Museum.

Item 8. Adjourn

The time at adjournment was 1:02 p.m.