

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Human Relations Commission

**FROM:** Willard Yellow Bird, Cultural Planner, Community Development

**DATE:** October 17, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Fargo Human Relations Commission Meeting

The Fargo Human Relations Commission is meeting on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. in the City Commission Room at Fargo City Hall. If you are not able to attend, please contact staff at 241-1474 or [planning@cityoffargo.com](mailto:planning@cityoffargo.com).

---

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, October 20, 2016 12:00 p.m.**  
**City Commission Room**  
**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approve Agenda & Minutes
3. Presentation: Kate Brick with Partnership for a New American Economy (Call-In)
  - Christian Harris, New American Consortium
4. Public Comment (12:30)
5. Funding Updates
6. Other Business and Announcements
  - October – Community Awareness of People with Disabilities Month
  - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Committee Update
7. Adjourn

Human Relations Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel TV Fargo 56 and can be seen live by video stream on [www.cityoffargo.com/streaming](http://www.cityoffargo.com/streaming). They are rebroadcast each Thursday at 12:00 p.m.

People with disabilities who plan to attend the meeting and need special accommodations should contact the Planning Office at 241-1474 or TDD at 241-8258. 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 [www.cityoffargo.com/humanrelations](http://www.cityoffargo.com/humanrelations).

**BOARD OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting: Thursday: September 15, 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, September 15, 2016.

The Human Relations Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Rachel Hoffman, Abdiwali Sharif-Abdinasir, Tanya RedRoad,  
Keith Bjornson, Paul Jensen, Barry Nelson

Absent: David Lanpher, Hassan Lamba, Timothy Stone, Laetitia Hellerud

**Item 1. Welcome and Introductions**

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

**Item 2. Welcome New Appointments**

Ms. Hoffman introduced two new members, Paul Jensen and Barry Nelson, to the Human Relations Commission.

**Item 3. Approve Order of Agenda**

Mr. Bjornson moved the Order of Agenda be approved with the ADA Fargodome Update under Item 8 being presented after Item 5. Second by Mr. Sharif-Abdinasir. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 4. Minutes: Special Meeting of July 25, 2016**

Ms. RedRoad moved the minutes of the July 25, 2016 Human Relations Commission meeting be approved. Second by Mr. Sharif-Abdinasir. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 5. Presentation: Darci Asche, Welcoming Week**

On behalf of Darci Asche, Cassie Wieste and Mindy Grant updated the Board on information regarding National Welcoming Week, which will take place from September 16-25, 2016. They noted Welcoming Week will consist of several events including the Community Table event, Family Night, and a Soccer Tournament. They noted more information on these events can be found on the Welcoming Week Facebook page.

**Item 6. Public Comment (1:10)**

No public comments were made.

**Item 7. Funding Updates**

The following funding requests were reviewed as follows:

- 1) Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County funding request for \$1,000 to assist with the “PANGEA – Cultivate Our Cultures” event on November 19, 2016.

Ms. Hoffman stated a funding request for \$250 to assist with this event has been approved in accordance with the anticipated, recurring sponsorships of the Human Relations Commission that were approved with the annual budget, but noted the request has been increased to \$1,000.

Mr. Nelson moved the funding request be approved for \$500. Second by Mr. Sharif-Abdinasir. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

- 2) Streets Alive! funding request for \$500 to assist with the International Corner, which would highlight the mission of Welcoming Week at the August 25, 2016 Streets Alive! event.

Ms. Hoffman noted a funding request for \$2500 to cover costs for Fargo’s National Welcoming Week has been approved in accordance with the anticipated, recurring sponsorships of the Human Relations Commission that were approved with the annual budget. She added the request for \$500 is included in the \$2500 that was pre-approved.

- 3) Afro-American Development Association, Somali Community Development of North Dakota, and the Bhutanese Community in Fargo funding request for \$500, to assist with honorarium and advertising costs for the “Thank You for Welcoming New Americans” event on October 1, 2016.

Mr. Nelson moved the funding request be approved for \$500. Second by Mr. Sharif-Abdinasir. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

## **Item 8. Other Business and Announcements**

### *Discussion on becoming a Welcoming City*

Discussion was held regarding the process and membership responsibilities for Fargo to join Welcoming America’s *Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative*, including annual dues; attendance to the annual conference; and the budget to address these items.

Mr. Bjornson moved Fargo engage in the Welcoming Community by enrolling in funding participation of two staff members to attend the annual conference to become more inclusive/involved in this initiative. Second by Mr. Sharif-Abdinasir. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

### *Martin Luther King Day Update*

Ms. Hoffman gave a brief summary to the Board on the upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event to be held at the Fargo Theatre on January 16, 2017.

*ADA Fargodome Update*

This item was presented after Item 5.

Mr. Bjornson provided a brief summary on ADA-compliance issues at the Fargodome including the parking/stripping that was done incorrectly on the east side of the building; the lack of access aisles alongside each of the parking spots; lack of adequate ADA-eligible seating for events; lack of elevator accommodations; and the need for family restrooms. Mr. Bjornson added Fargodome General Manager Rob Sobolik has been working on estimates for the work needed to address these issues.

Discussion was held regarding availability of funds from the 2017 budget to address the above-noted items.

In addition, Mr. Bjornson updated the Board on an item regarding parking accessibility for ADA-compliant vehicles to park diagonally across two parking spaces, if there are no ADA parking spaces available. It was noted this item has been forwarded to the State Legislature and City Attorney.

Mr. Bjornson moved the Fargo Human Relations Commission endorse a proclamation supporting people with disabilities in regard to transportation, employment, and housing. Second by Ms. RedRoad. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

*Dakota Access Oil Pipeline Protest*

Board Members discussed the Dakota Access Oil Pipeline protest at Standing Rock and their experiences while there.

Mr. Nelson moved the Human Relations Commission write a proclamation in support of the protest. Second by Mr. Sharif-Abdinasir. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 9. Adjourn**

Ms. RedRoad moved the meeting be adjourned. Second by Mr. Bjornson. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

The time at adjournment was 1:15 p.m.