

**BOARD OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting:**

**Thursday:**

**November 17, 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, November 17, 2016.

The Human Relations Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

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

Absent: Tanya RedRoad, Hassan Lamba

Also Present: 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 with the addition of a presentation by Lutheran Social Services after Item 4. Second by Mr. Bjornson. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 3. Minutes: Regular Meeting of October 20, 2016**

Mr. Sharif-Abdinasir moved the minutes of the October 20, 2016 Human Relations Commission meeting be approved. Second by Mr. Lanpher. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 4. Public Comment (12:10)**

No public comments were made.

**Item 5. Presentation: Saurav Dahal, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota (LSSND)**

Saurav Dahal, state refugee health coordinator and special projects manager for Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota (LSSND), presented to the Board information on refugee resettlement in North Dakota. He discussed the United States immigration overview; the resettlement process; LSSND's resettlement services; challenges; and the valuable contributions refugees make to our community.

12:13 p.m. Member Hellerud present.

Discussion was held regarding the biggest challenges of refugee resettlement; services provided to refugees; and the main sectors of employment held by refugees.

**Item 6. New American Working Group Update**

Mr. Nelson provided an update on the New American Working Group, which has been meeting to define the process and identify a timeline on gathering information regarding refugee resettlement including data collection, community engagement, and communication on this topic moving forward.

**Item 7. Martin Luther King Day Update – Monday January 16, 2017 at Fargo Theatre**

Ms. Hellerud provided an update to the Board regarding the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Day event. She noted the final meeting of the event's planning committee will be held Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. at Atomic Coffee.

**Item 8. Review Fargo HRC Statement - NoDAPL**

Ms. Hoffman noted a letter of support from the Fargo Human Relations Commission has been drafted regarding the Dakota Access Oil Pipeline, with comments included from Member Jensen.

Discussion was held regarding the need to move on this item, with further conversation being held at the next Fargo Human Relations Commission Executive Committee meeting.

Mr. Jensen moved to support Mr. Lanpher's recommendation to approve the letter with the amendments as submitted. Second by Mr. Nelson. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 9. Funding Request**

The following funding request was reviewed as follows:

- 1) Global Youth United funding request for \$500 to assist with facility rental and fuel costs for their after school, indoor soccer recreation program.

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

**Item 10. Other Business and Announcements**

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.

Mr. Bjornson noted he will follow up with City staff regarding parking accessibility for ADA-compliant vehicles to park diagonally across two parking spaces, if there are no ADA parking spaces available. He noted this item was forwarded to the State Legislature a few months ago, but he has not received a response.

Mr. Nelson noted there is a community group called Community Together, which supports refugees and LSSND's efforts. He noted they will be meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at Olivet Lutheran Church.

**Item 11.                   Adjourn**

Mr. Jensen moved the meeting be adjourned. Second by Mr. Sharif-Abdinasir. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

The time at adjournment was 1:07 p.m.