

**BOARD OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES**

Regular Meeting:

Thursday:

December 15, 2016:

A 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, December 15, 2016.

The Human Relations Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Keith Bjornson, Paul Jensen, David Lanpher, Rachel Hoffman, Tim Stone, Barry Nelson

Absent: Tanya RedRoad, Laetitia Hellerud, Hassan Lamba, Abdiwali Sharif-Abdinasir

Also Present: Willard Yellow Bird, Kara Gloe, Commissioner John Strand

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

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

Item 2. Approve Order of Agenda & Minutes: Regular Meeting November 17, 2016

Mr. Nelson moved the Order of Agenda and the minutes of the November 17, 2016 Human Relations Commission meeting be approved. Second by Mr. Bjornson. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 3. Presentation: State Representative District 21 Kathy Hogan

Kathy Hogan, State Representative of District 21, presented a summary to the Board on the Human Services budget. She noted Medicare reimbursement rates have been cut by 30%, causing a struggle for providers to remain open. In addition, she talked about Medicaid expansion; long-term care; childcare and special needs. She also discussed behavioral health, noting an Interim Services Committee has prepared six bills to address this item. For more information, she added the North Dakota Behavioral Health Stakeholders group is a resource people can follow regarding behavioral health legislation.

Item 4. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Item 5. Hate Graffiti Response

Ms. Hoffman presented to the Board the response statement that was written in regard to the recent hate graffiti incident that occurred in Fargo.

Discussion was held regarding updating the Fargo/Moorhead Hate Crime Prevention and Response Plan, including working with the Fargo Police Department on this and developing a definition of "hate crime". In addition, Members agreed it would be beneficial to extend an invitation for an upcoming meeting to Michelle Kommer, North Dakota's Commissioner of Labor.

Mr. Stone moved the response to the hate graffiti incident be approved and released. Second by Mr. Jensen. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 6. MLK Day Committee

Ms. Hoffman stated that planning for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day event is on track and it will be a great event, which will be held on Monday, January 16, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Fargo Theatre.

Item 7. New American Working Group

Mr. Nelson stated the New American Working Group continues to meet every two weeks. He added the group is working on two tracks, which include: 1) discernment and discovery - getting information and community leaders and 2) community involvement.

Item 8. Funding & Budget Update

Cultural Planner Willard Yellow Bird provided an update to the Board, noting there is approximately \$750 leftover in the 2016 Budget.

Item 9. Other Business and Announcements

Mr. Bjornson brought to the attention of the group a recent discrimination incident at The Shack on Broadway. He stated the seating and access were inadequate for people in wheelchairs. Mr. Stone volunteered to work with Mr. Bjornson on looking into this item with Freedom Resource Center.

Mr. Yellow Bird invited the group to recognize December 21, 2016 as Homeless Persons Memorial Day by gathering at the US Bank Plaza at 6:45 p.m. and marching to First Lutheran Church for memorial services at 7:00 p.m.

Item 10. Adjourn

The time at adjournment was 1:00 p.m.