BOARD OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

Regular Meeting: Thursday: December 17, 2015:

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, December 17, 2015.

The Human Relations Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Abdiwali Sharif-Abdinasir, Tanya RedRoad, Laetitia Hellerud, Keith Bjornson, Timothy Stone

Absent: Rachel Hoffman, David Lanpher, Hassan Lamba, Waseem Altaf

Also Present: Kristina Kaupa, Willard Yellow Bird, Cristie Jacobsen (Fargo Police), Dan Mahli

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions
Vice-Chair RedRoad welcomed Members to the meeting and introductions were made.

Item 2. Approve Order of Agenda
Following Item 4, Mr. Sharif-Abdinasir 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 November 19th, 2015
Ms. RedRoad moved the minutes of the November 19, 2015 Human Relations Commission meeting be approved. Second by Mr. Sharif-Abdinasir. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 4. Presentation: Center for Interfaith Projects, New American Consortium for Wellness & Empowerment & the Fargo Adult Learning Center
A prepared statement was read by David Meyers from the Center for Interfaith Projects showing support for interfaith cooperation in our community and announcement of the Meet Your Muslim Neighbor event on December 20, 2015.

Following comment from members of the New American Consortium for Wellness and Empowerment and Afro American Students Organization, New American Consortium Executive Director Christian Harris asked that the Human Relations Commission rally their support around issues of discrimination and fear as a result of misinformation in our community and actively speak out against these destructive elements. In addition, he stated there are requests to help educate our community and address the language and tone used by the media in their portrayal of the refugee community.

No presentation was made by the Fargo Adult Learning Center.

Item 5. Public Comment

Nate Aalgaard, Executive Director of Freedom Resource Center for Independent Living, spoke on the lack of handicap accessibility and incompliance with the Department of Justice and Americans with Disabilities design guidelines at the Fargodome. Mr. Aalgaard requested the Human Relations Commission continue working with the Planning Department and accessibility coordinator from Freedom Resource Center to keep pressure on this issue until it is resolved.

Kevin Brooks, Professor of English at North Dakota State University, encouraged the city to be equal partners in refugee resettlement and acclimation.

Community Development Administrator Dan Mahli requested that, in accordance with their mission and promotion of acceptance and respect in the community, the Human Relations Commission (HRC) move to take action on the issues discussed in Item 4.

Ms. Hellerud moved the HRC take a formal and public position on promoting diversity and acceptance for minorities, specifically our Muslim community members, in this controversial time in our world. Second by Mr. Sharif-Abdinasir. All members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 6. Review of HRC's Hate Crime Prevention and Response Plan

The HRC's Hate Crime Prevention and Response Plan was made available to all members and a request for individual and annual review, with particular attention to the educational outreach section, was made by Ms. Kaupa.

Item 7. Establish HRC Planning Team

Members Rachel Hoffman, Timothy Stone, Tanya RedRoad and Abdiwali Sharif-Abdinasir will partake in the first two phases of the strategic planning process.

Item 8. Sponsorship Updates

Updates were given on funding requests that were approved at the recent Fargo Human Relations Commission Executive Committee meeting, they were as follows:

In fulfillment of the HRC's role as sponsors for Fargo's National Welcoming Week, $2,500 will be provided to the New American Consortium for Wellness and Empowerment to cover outstanding costs associated with the event.

A contribution to the Native American Center's New Year's Eve Powwow will be made again this year in the amount of $350.

Item 9. Other Business and Announcements

There will be no Human Relations Commission meeting in January. Instead, members are requested to attend and serve as ushers for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on January 18, 2016.

Everyone Matters Day has become an annual event hosted by the Winston-Salem Massachusetts Youth Commission. The City of Fargo has been invited to participate again this year. The date of this year's event is to be announced.

The Cities of Fargo and Moorhead have passed a joint proclamation recognizing the longest night of the year (Monday, December 21, 2015) as Homeless Persons Memorial Day. Individuals are invited to gather at the US Bank Plaza at 5:45 p.m. and march to Elim Lutheran Church for a memorial at 6:30 p.m.

Item 10. Adjourn

The time at adjournment was 12:50 p.m.