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FARGO YOUTH INITIATIVE
Sunday, December 1, 2024 | 1:15 PM
Fargo Public Library - Main | Fercho Room
AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Icebreakers
3. Approve Agenda & Minutes.....Action Item
4. FYI History
5. Bylaws Review
6. FYI Communications
7. 2024 Impact Fargo Debrief
8. 2025 Timeline & Ideas
9. Adjourn – Next meeting January 5, 2025

FARGO YOUTH INITIATIVE MINUTES

Regular Meeting:

Thursday, September 12, 2024

A Meeting of the Fargo Youth Initiative Members of the City of Fargo, North Dakota, was held in the Dawson Room of Fargo Public Library – Main at 5:15 p.m., Thursday, September 12, 2024.

The Fargo Youth Initiative Members present or absent were as follows:

Present: McKenzie Olson, Kallie Anderson, Isabella Meyer, Steph Kramer

Absent: Koral Siegal, Abigail Hamilton

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair McKenzie Olson welcomed Members to the meeting and introductions were made.

Item 2. Impact Fargo Event

Discussion was held regarding planning efforts for an Impact Fargo event to take place in October.

Item 3. Recruitment

Assistant Planner Catlyn Christie shared that there have been a few applications submitted. Members agreed that they will postpone application review until after the fall Impact Fargo event to generate more awareness of the opportunity.

Item 4. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.

Fargo Youth Initiative 2024 Bylaws

I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Fargo Youth Initiative and shall hereby be known as FYI.

II. INTENT

The intent in preparing and adopting these bylaws is to provide a framework for FYI, its actions and agenda. It is not the intent of the City or the members hereinafter described to create a legal entity of any sort including without limitation, a corporation, nonprofit corporation, limited liability company, partnership nor any other business, public or quasi-public entity.

III. PURPOSE

Mission

"Empowering the voice and uniting the youth of Fargo through actions and teamwork."

Vision

"An atmosphere where youth have a positive sustainable impact on the community of Fargo."

Tagline

"Connect. Create. Educate."

Specific Functions

Specific functions of FYI shall include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. To serve as a liaison between the City of Fargo and the youth of Fargo.
- b. To investigate needs, problems and issues affecting the youth of Fargo.
- c. Research issues and make policy or project recommendations to the Fargo City Commission.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

Composition

FYI will consist of:

- a. Between 10-20 students representing grades 9-12
 1. Students must live in or attend school in Fargo
 2. All student members will represent all aspects of the group
- b. Between 1-3 adult mentors
 1. Adult mentors must live in Fargo

Terms

- a. Terms shall begin in the fall of each year.
- b. Applicants can reapply each year if not admitted.
- c. Members can serve in FYI until graduation without reapplying each year so long as they fulfill their duties and are in good standing with the group.
- d. If members have two unexcused absences they will be given a warning from the co-chairs. If members have four unexcused absences they will be asked to leave the group.
 - a. The executive committee will determine what is considered an acceptable excuse.

V. OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Chairperson Responsibilities

- a. The Chairperson's primary role is to keep the mission and vision at the forefront of all FYI business and remind fellow members of the mission and vision.
- b. The Chairperson will help schedule meetings, write agendas, coordinate committees, contact advisors, and remind members of FYI and City Commission meetings.

Vice Chairperson Responsibilities

- a. In the event of the absence, disability, resignation or conflict of interest of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall exercise all the powers and duties of said Chairperson.
- b. The Vice Chairperson will also help take minutes.

Election Procedure

- a. Each January, one Chairperson and one Vice Chairperson will be elected to serve for one year, unless otherwise decided by a majority vote if members determine that it would be beneficial for the group.
- b. Candidates for both positions should not be seniors.
- c. Advisers will coordinate elections and tally votes.
- d. Chairperson will be voted on first, then Vice Chairperson.
Candidates will have the opportunity to give a short speech about their qualifications and goals.
- e. Each member will get one vote for each position. The candidate with the most votes will be elected. In the case of a tie, the candidate with the fewest votes will be eliminated and a runoff election between the two candidates with the highest number of votes will occur. In the case of an unbreakable tie between two candidates, the adviser will choose the elected officer.

VI. COMMITTEES

Structure

- a. Committees will be utilized when appropriate.
- b. Committees will collaborate at least monthly, either in person or online, to work toward goals and then report back to the full group.

Leadership

- a. Each committee shall appoint one Committee Lead, responsible for reporting to the Chairperson and staff, coordinating committee meetings and agendas, and ensuring adherence to goals and timeline.
- b. Other committee leadership positions may be established upon the consensus of the committee.

VII. MEETINGS & ATTENDANCE

Regular Meetings

- a. Regular meetings will be held one Sunday a month at 1:30 p.m. unless otherwise specified.
- b. When possible, the committees will be given time to work during the full group meeting.

Committee Meetings

- a. There may be additional committee meetings scheduled as needed. These meetings will be considered optional and attendance is not mandatory but highly encouraged.

Annual Retreat

- a. An annual retreat will be held in late summer or fall to orientate the new FYI members and advisers.

VIII. ROLE OF MENTORS

Advisers

- a. FYI will have between 1-3 adult mentors to guide the collective work.
- b. Mentors will not be voting members of FYI, instead their role is advisory: to facilitate, provide guidance and connections, and assist committees.
- c. Mentors will also assist the officers in choosing next year's student participants.

IX. APPLICATION PROCESS

Application

- a. An application for FYI will be open from dates in March through September.
- b. The written application will consist of short essay questions and will be scored by the current officers and advisers. They will attempt to be as objective as possible. They will look for these criteria in the applications:
 - a. Teamwork
 - b. Leadership abilities
 - c. Drive/ambition to improve the community
 - d. Responsibility
 - e. Representation (i.e. from schools or grades that do not currently have representatives)
- c. Selection will occur in September of each year.
- d. All applicants will be notified within two weeks of the application closing of whether they were accepted.

Original bylaws approved May 2013.

Last edited and approved: January 2024



Fargo Youth Initiative

December 1, 2024

Agenda Overview

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Icebreakers
3. Approve Agenda & Minutes
4. FYI History
5. Bylaws Review (Preparation for 2025 Approval)
6. FYI Communications
7. 2024 Impact Fargo Debrief
8. 2025 Timeline & Ideas
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Welcome & Introductions

1. **Name**
2. **Pronouns**
3. **School**
4. **Grade**
5. **Fun Question**
6. **What is something you hope to get out of FYI?**



Icebreakers

1. Soulmates
2. Something in Common



Connect. Create. Educate.

Approve Agenda & Minutes

- **Chair:** “Can I get a motion to approve the Agenda & Minutes?”
- **Member #1:** “I move to approve the Agenda & Minutes as presented.”
- **Member #2:** I second.
- **Chair:** All those in favor say “Aye.” [Members in favor say “aye”]
- **Chair:** All those opposed same sign. [Members opposing say “aye”aye”]
- **Chair:** “Motion carried.”

FYI Background: Mission & Purpose

On 5/21/13, City Commission adopted a Resolution to approve the creation of the Fargo Youth Initiative to act as an **advisor to the Board of City Commissioners.**

It represents the current needs and issues of the city’s youth. It is made up of up to 20 students from 9th to 12th grade from high schools around Fargo.

FYI’s mission: To empower the voice and unite the youth of Fargo through action and team work.

FYI’s Vision: An atmosphere where youth have a positive sustainable impact on the community of Fargo.

Key Values:

- Collaboration
- Compassion
- Ambition
- Problem-Solving
- Learning

FYI’s Three Critical Functions:

- 1) To serve as a liaison between the City of Fargo and the youth of Fargo.
- 2) To investigate needs, problems and issues affecting the youth of Fargo.
- 3) To research issues and make policy or project recommendations to the Fargo City Commission.

FYI Background: Impact Fargo 2024



FYI Background: Impact Fargo 2024



FYI Background: Other Past Projects

- Providing support and advice to City departments for ways to reach students, e.g., public health services or youth public art contest
- Conducted a student needs assessment, with a focus on mental health and racial equity, that reached 463 students.
- Analyzing policy and making recommendations related to improving mental health in schools
- Analyzing policy and making recommendations related to improving racial equality in schools.
- Monthly presentations from City departments and local organizations
- Annual Impact Fargo event (pre-2020) with “Power 1/2 Hour” results presented to City Commission

Fargo high school students want less homework, more therapy to improve mental health

High school students, community members point out top health concerns



Erika Spanjer is the chairman of city government's Fargo Youth Initiative group that recently did a survey on mental health issues among high school students. Homework overload was seen as the least expensive and No. 1 way to help as she sits over a stack of books. Barry Amundson / The Forum

FYI Background: City Structure



City of Fargo Departments & Services

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Assessor | • Inspections |
| • Auditor | • Library |
| • Administration | • Municipal Court |
| • Civic Center | • Planning & Development |
| • Engineering | • Police |
| • Fire | • Public Works |
| • Forestry | • Transit |
| • Health | • Wastewater |
| • Human Resources | • Water Treatment |
| • Information Services | |

FYI Background: City Structure

Airport Authority	Ambulance Service Oversight Committee	Arts & Culture Commission	Housing & Redevelopment Authority	Human Relations Commission	Library Board
Auditorium Commission	Board of Adjustment	Board of Appeals	Liquor Control Board	Metro Area Transit Coordinating Board	Metro Flood Diversion Authority
Community Development Committee	FARGODOME Authority	Fargo City Commission	Native American Commission	Parking Commission	Performing Arts Task Force
Board of Health	Cass Clay Food Commission	Civil Service Commission	Planning Commission	Renaissance Zone Authority	Special Assessment Commission
Fargo Youth Initiative	Historic Preservation Commission	House Moving Board	Special Assessments Taskforce	Tax-Exempt Review Committee	Traffic Technical Advisory Committee

FYI Background: Project Options

So what kind of work are boards and commissions able to do?

Bylaws Review (Prep for 2025 Approval)

1. Review bylaws
2. Propose any edits before the next meeting (January 5, 2025)
 - a. Propose edits via Google Drive
3. Vote to approve bylaws with any changes on January 5, 2025



FYI Communications

- Email
 - Group Chat
 - City Policy for Boards/Commissions
- 

2024 Impact Fargo Debrief

- What worked well?
- What could be improved?



2025 Timeline & Ideas

- Monthly meetings on the first Sunday of each month
 - Guests to invite for collaborative discussion and follow-ups
- December 2024:
 - TBD - Official appointment at City Commission meeting
- January 2025:
 - Elections - Sunday, January 5 regular meeting
 - MLK Jr Day - Monday, January 20



Thank you!



THE CITY OF
Fargo
FAR MORE 

