



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Thursday, December 16, 2021 | 12:00PM
City Commission Chambers
AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approve or Amend Agenda.....Action Item
3. Approve or Amend Minutes.....Action Item
4. Public Comment
5. Approve Vision & Mission Statement.....Action Item
6. Staff Report
7. Announcements
8. Adjourn

Human Relations Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel TV Fargo 56 and can be seen live by video stream on www.FargoND.gov/streaming. They are rebroadcast each Thursday at 12:00 p.m. Minutes are available on the City of Fargo Web site at www.FargoND.gov/humanrelations.

People with disabilities who plan to attend the meeting and need special accommodations should contact the Planning Office at 701-241-1474. Please contact us at least 48 hours before the meeting to give our staff adequate time to make arrangements.

**BOARD OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES**

Regular Meeting

Thursday, November 18, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Human Relations Commissioners of the City of Fargo, North Dakota, was held in the Commission Chambers at City Hall at 12:00 p.m., Thursday, November 18, 2021.

The Human Relations Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Cheryl Schaeffe, Matuor Alier, Barry Nelson, Cody Severson, Carolyn Becraft, Jed Locquiao, Sarah Boonstoppel

Absent: Nancy Boyle, Abdiwali Sharif-Abdinasir, Hamida Dakane, Ahmed Shiil

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

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

Item 2. Approve Order of Agenda

Member Nelson moved the Order of Agenda be approved as presented. Second by Member Becraft. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 3. Approve Order of Minutes

Member Becraft moved the minutes of the October 21, 2021 Human Relations Commission meeting be approved as presented. Second by Member Schaeffe. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 4. Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Item 5. Announcements

Member Nelson shared that a training will be this evening at the Synagogue hosted by Welcome Connection focused on the theme of organizing and any interested can contact Member Nelson.

Fargo Police Sgt. Cristie Jacobsen noted that she emailed commissioners that applications are being accepted for the Summer Fargo Police Academy, and encouraged member to pass the information along.

Item 6. Staff Updates

No Staff updates were provided.

Planning and Development Director Nicole Crutchfield noted that Planning staff is working closely with Dr. Terry Hogan, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, on the transition of the Human Relations Commission.

Item 9. Adjourn to Work Session

The time at adjournment was 12:07 p.m.

PROPOSED HRC VISION & MISSION

Mission: The Fargo Human Relations Commission provides leadership and education in areas of civil rights, to eliminate discrimination against persons because of color, creed, religion, national origin, age, sex, disability or marital status. It encourages adherence to civil rights through education, conciliation, and mediation. It identifies human and civil rights-related concerns of the public and recommends policies to the board of city commissioners that protect and preserve individual rights.

Vision: The city of Fargo strives to be an equitable, inclusive community where all residents feel accepted, respected, and safe. The Fargo Human Relations Commission is a diverse group of individuals that advises the City of Fargo in protecting and preserving human and civil rights and brings a voice to the unheard.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fargo Human Relations Commission
FROM: Catlyn Christie, Assistant Planner
DATE: December 13, 2021
RE: Staff Report

This agenda item is an effort to summarize and memorialize issues, concerns, or staff action related to the work of the Human Relations Commission since the last meeting. During the meeting, the Chair may open for discussion or questions concerning these items.

1. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The City will direct support to the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition for its celebration of MLK Jr. Day in 2022. To get involved, contact Barry Nelson. The City will not conduct its MLK Day Human Relations Awards in 2022.

2. Police Advisory and Oversight Board

The Fargo City Commission voted 3-2 to approve the establishment of The City of Fargo Police Advisory and Oversight Board.

The purpose of the Fargo Police Advisory and Oversight Board is to advise and assist The City of Fargo and the Fargo Police Department in policy development specific to police-community relations, education, outreach and other areas of concern. The Fargo City Commission will appoint up to seven board members who will work to create an open dialogue between community representatives and the Fargo Police Department while improving relations between law enforcement and the community. Additional tasks for the Board will include assisting with the recruitment of diverse candidates and providing community perspective on policy, programs and priorities of the Fargo Police Department.

3. ADA Access Concern

Last month, Member Becraft raised concerns regarding handicap parking at the Valley Senior Services senior center connected to the Dr. James Carlson Public Library as well as lack of automatic door openers. City Buildings and Grounds Interim Director Mark Fournier met with Freedom Resources to review the issue. They determined that the building currently meets or exceeds both ADA standards and North Dakota Building Code standards, but they will proceed with adding two more accessible parking spots as close to the senior center as possible, tentatively by year-end. They will also obtain quotes for installation of two automatic door openers, for Valley Senior Services to evaluate.

4. City Administration and Organization

Effective January 2022, Dr. Hogan's office will be the primary contact for the Human Relations Commission. Please contact him at Terry.Hogan@FargoND.gov or 701-461-7681 for any work plan coordination. The Planning Department will continue to provide administrative support until he is able to get administrative staff.

5. Community Development Committee

Last month, the Fargo Community Development Committee meeting featured presentations and discussion on the current state of affairs, resources, and deficiencies related to renters and evictions. Watch the meeting at <https://download.fargond.gov/4/301-1-1.m4v>.

6. COVID-19 Vaccinations

Through year-end, vaccine for first & second doses, along with booster doses, will be available during walk-in clinics below. Vaccine clinics take place at the main Fargo Cass Public Health (FCPH) building, located at 1240 25th Street South, Fargo. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged for all doses. Walk-ins should plan for an additional 15 minutes to register on-site. Specific clinic information, including links to make an appointment, are available at: www.FargoCassPublicHealth.com/covidvaccine

- Tuesday, December 14, noon - 4 p.m.
- Friday, December 17, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 21, noon - 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 28, noon - 4 p.m.

Beginning the week of January 3, FCPH will adjust its COVID-19 vaccine operation from conducting walk-in clinics to providing vaccine by appointment in its Immunization Clinic. This change is being made to improve operational efficiencies. FCPH will continue to provide first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine, as well as booster doses. The Immunization Clinic operates Monday from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., and Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and is located in the main FCPH building at 1240 25th Street South in Fargo. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 701.241.1383.

7. Rental Assistance & Eviction Prevention

Anyone struggling to pay rent is encouraged to call 2-1-1 (FirstLink) to be connected to rental assistance and other eviction prevention programs currently available. They will direct individuals to the best-fit assistance, such as the North Dakota Rent Help program, <https://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/covid-19/rent-help.html>, or other assistance available through SENDCAA and Presentation Partners in Housing.

The High Plains Fair Housing Center also continues to offer an eviction prevention program to income-qualified residents living in Fargo (as well as Grand Forks and Bismarck). If eligible, potential eviction prevention services offered include referral to and help applying for rental assistance programs and/or connection to a lawyer at no cost for assistance in eviction court. Call the intake line at 701-203-1077 or toll free at 1-866-380-2738.

8. HUD Programs

The City has accepted \$1,697,107 in homeless assistance funds through HUD HOME-ARP and the State will be receiving \$7,768,864. These awards are in addition to the regular annual HOME allocations. A virtual town hall was held October 28 and staff is currently in the process of analyzing needs and preparing plans for both the HOME-ARP and 2022 HUD funds. The 2021 HUD award for CDBG and HOME is now available for activities approved in the 2021 Action Plan. Finally, the 2020 Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report was submitted to HUD on September 30, 2021. This report covers accomplishments throughout the 2020 program year (May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021).