

Fargo Youth Initiative

2019-2020 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. Applications are sent out in the spring 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.

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 have at least one year of experience and 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.

V. MEETINGS & ATTENDANCE

Lunch Meetings

- a. Lunch meetings will be held once a month
- b. The goal of lunch meetings is to educate FYI members about issues and initiatives related to their goals; to facilitate discussion with key stakeholders; and to conduct business as necessary.
- c. FYI members will select presenters to invite at the beginning of the year

Sunday Meetings

- a. Meetings will be held one Sunday a month at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise specified.
- b. The goal of Sunday meetings is
- c. When possible, the committees will be given time to work during the full group meeting.
- d. 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 - An annual retreat will be held in late summer or fall to orientate the new FYI members and advisers.

VII. 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.

VIII. APPLICATION PROCESS

Application

An application process will begin in the spring of each year for interested students. 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)

IX. CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS

Representatives - There will be at least one FYI representative present at each City Commission meeting whenever possible and pertinent to FYI, in order to increase FYI visibility and to provide a youth voice during public forums.

Original bylaws approved May 2013.

Last edit: October 2019