

**NATIVE AMERICAN COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, May 1, 2025 | 12:00PM**  
**Meadowlark Room | Fargo City Hall**  
**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approve Agenda & Minutes.....Action Item
3. Public Comment
4. Retreat Recap
5. Discussion with Communications Department
6. Governance and Operations
7. Staff Reports
8. Announcements
9. Adjourn

Native American Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel TV Fargo 56, subject to the availability of recording equipment. Broadcasts can be seen live by video stream on [www.FargoND.gov/streaming](http://www.FargoND.gov/streaming). They are rebroadcast each Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. and Thursday at 5:00 p.m. Minutes are available on the City of Fargo Web site at <http://fargond.gov/city-government/boards-commissions/native-american-commission>.



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## **BOARD OF NATIVE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS MINUTES**

### **Regular Meeting:**

**Thursday, January 2, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Native American Commissioners of the City of Fargo, North Dakota, was held in the Commission Chambers at City Hall at 12:00 p.m., Thursday, January 2, 2025.

The Native American Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Ashley Littlewolf, Daniel Frye, Dale Sayers, Suzanne Senske (via conference call)

Absent: Emily Sargent, Amanda Strauss, Lisa Ducheneaux

Also present: Fargo School Board Liaison Nikkie Gullickson

#### **Item 1. Welcome and Introductions**

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

#### **Item 2. Approve Order of Agenda & Minutes**

Member Senske moved the Order of Agenda and the minutes of the November 7, 2024 Native American Commission meeting be approved. Second by Sayers. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

#### **Item 3: Public Comment**

No public comment was presented.

#### **Item 4: Honoring of Outgoing Member**

Chair Littlewolf thanked outgoing Member Whitney Johnson for her time and service to the Native American Commission. A star quilt was presented to Ms. Johnson.

Arlan Littlewolf gave a blessing and a prayer song was performed.

Ms. Johnson shared outgoing remarks with the board.

#### **Item 5. Honoring of New Members**

Chair Littlewolf welcomed new Member Daniel Frye and Member Lisa Ducheneaux, who was appointed in November 2023, to the Native American Commission. The drum group performed a song.

#### **Item 6. Election of Vice Chair**

The nominating committee recommended Member Sayers to serve as Vice Chair of the Native American Commission.

Member Frye moved to appoint Member Sayers as Vice Chair of the Native American Commission. Second by Member Senske. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 7. Indigenous Association Report**

Brandon Baity, Executive Director of the Indigenous Association, shared his additional gratitude for outgoing Chair Whitney Johnson. He also noted that the New Years Eve Party was well attended, open craft nights will be starting up again next week on Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., and other upcoming events will be listed on the Facebook page and on NativeFM.org.

**Item 8. Subcommittee Reports**

Member Senske shared a report for the Education Subcommittee that the Fargo Public Schools Indian Education program held a Christmas event at Discovery Middle School.

Chair Littlewolf shared a report for the Housing Subcommittee that the FM Homeless Coalition is getting a New Executive Director.

**Item 9. Staff Reports**

No reports were given.

**Item 10. Announcements**

No announcements were shared.

**Item 11. Adjourn**

The time of adjournment was 12:32 p.m.

## Native American Commission Retreat Summary

**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2025

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**Location:** Indigenous Association

**Present:** Ashley Littlewolf (Chair), Dale Sayers (Vice Chair), Amanda Strauss, Lisa Ducheneaux, Emily Sargent (virtual), John Strand (City Commission Liaison), Nikki Gullickson (Fargo School Board Liaison), Catlyn Christie (City of Fargo Assistant Planner)

**Absent:** Suzanne Senske, Daniel Frye

### Retreat Summary:

During the retreat, members discussed their preferred areas to focus on for the year. Throughout the discussion, a central theme that emerged was the urgent need for greater attention and support around Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP).

Members shared interest in a three-pronged strategy to guide their efforts:

1. **Awareness:** Explore ways to raise public awareness and improve the community's ability to respond quickly to MMIP cases in Fargo.
2. **Data:** Assess the availability of current MMIP data for the area and consider opportunities to enhance data collection to better understand the scope of the issue.
3. **Prevention:** Identify and support initiatives that address the social determinants of health contributing to individuals' vulnerability.

Members also discussed a proposed meeting framework for 2025 in which various city departments would be invited to attend bi-monthly meetings for collaborative roundtable discussions. Members expressed interest in starting by inviting representatives from Communications, Public Health, Police, and MATBUS.

These roundtable discussions would serve to:

- Build relationships
- Exchange knowledge and build understanding of existing work
- Learn about resources, particularly with an MMIP lens
- Explore how each other can support one another in their missions