

FARGO YOUTH INITIATIVE
Sunday, September 7, 2025 | 1:00 PM
Atomic Coffee | 222 Broadway N #100, Fargo, ND 58102
AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approve Agenda & Minutes.....Action Item
3. School Engagement
4. Youth Public Health
5. Youth Homelessness
6. Liaison & Staff Reports
7. Discussion on Governance & Operations
8. Adjourn – Next meeting October 5, 2025



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.

FARGO YOUTH INITIATIVE MINUTES

Regular Meeting:

Sunday, March 2, 2025

A Meeting of the Fargo Youth Initiative Members of the City of Fargo, North Dakota, was held in Atomic Coffee, 222 Broadway N #100, at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, March 2, 2025.

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

Present: Ashley Hsu, Ava Bach, Drew Burris, Isabella Meyer, Justin Jiang, Kaj Naujokas, Kallie Anderson, Lucy Paul, Minou Babingui, Setiya Hamidi, Steph Kramer

Absent: Abigail Hamilton, Aiden Rosten, Erica Johnson, Harper Reiniger, Koral Siegal, Lillian Dybing, McKenzie Olson, Rose Ali, Reanna Quiah

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

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

Item 2. Approve Agenda & Minutes

Member Kramer moved the Order of Agenda and the minutes of the January 5, 2025 and February 2, 2025 Fargo Youth Initiative meetings be approved. Second by Member Bach. Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 3. School Engagement

No updates were heard for this item.

Item 4. Youth Public Health

Fargo Cass Public Health Community Health Educator Abbey Lang shared updates on the Youth Action Summit on March 4, 2025 by Tobacco Free North Dakota. She also shared information on the upcoming Suicide Prevent Summit on April 8, 2025 at the Fargodome, including an opportunity for Members to speak on the youth panel.

Assistant Planner Catlyn Christie shared updates on behalf of Fargo Cass Public Health Nurse Madison Verghis, including an upcoming meeting with Fargo health teachers and meetings with school nurses about increased collaboration on reproductive health education.

Item 5. Youth Homelessness

Assistant Planner Catlyn Christie shared updates on current homelessness efforts, including an upcoming recommendation to City Commission to extend the resolution allowing for camping to April 30 as the "United to End Homelessness" program launches. Discussion was also held regarding a state legislative funding bill under

consideration that includes homelessness and affordable housing funding. Members agreed that they want to urge support for this funding to the maximum extent feasible.

Item 6. Fargo Land Development Code Discussion

Assistant Planner Catlyn Christie provided an overview of what the City's Land Development Code does and the current process underway to update it. Members watched a video on designing cities with a sense of place. Members shared feedback on what they would like to see more or less of in Fargo in the future, such as more third spaces for kids; more transit options; more greenery; and more unique architecture.

Item 7. North Dakota Legislative Session

Chair Meyer shared about the status of the North Dakota Legislative Session and encouraged Members to keep informed on bills that may be pertinent to youth.

Item 8. Volunteering Discussion

Chair Meyer said she is aiming to set up a group volunteering effort for something related to homelessness, to align with the board's focus areas this year.

Item 9. Liaison and Staff Reports

Assistant Planner Christie shared a report on behalf of Commission Kolpack to pay attention to the annual budgeting process this year as well as a new community engagement tool soon to be launched.

Member Hamidi shared an update as FYI liaison to the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee as to their most recent areas of focus.

Assistant Planner Christie reminded members to complete the survey regarding teen programming at the Fargo Public Library.

Item 10. Announcements

Vice Chair Babingui shared about an Umoja event on April 18 for students to review and present solutions on improving their communities.

Item 11. Adjourn – Next meeting April 6, 2025

The time of adjournment was 2:57 p.m.

FARGO YOUTH INITIATIVE MINUTES

Regular Meeting:

Sunday, April 6, 2025

A Meeting of the Fargo Youth Initiative Members of the City of Fargo, North Dakota, was held in Atomic Coffee, 222 Broadway N #100, at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, April 6, 2025.

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

Present*: Aiden Rosten, Ashley Hsu, Isabella Meyer, Harper Reiniger, Justin Jiang, Kaj Naujokas, Lucy Paul, Minou Babingui, Reanna Quiah, Setiya Hamidi

Absent: Abigail Hamilton, Ava Bach, Drew Burris, Kallie Anderson, Erica Johnson, Koral Siegal, Lillian Dybing, McKenzie Olson, Rose Ali, Steph Kramer

**Due to lack of quorum for an official meeting, the meeting commenced with informal presentation and discussion.*

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

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

Item 2. Approve Agenda & Minutes

Vice Chair Babingui moved the Order of Agenda and the minutes of the March 2, 2025 Fargo Youth Initiative meetings be unofficially approved. Second by Member Hamidi. Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried unofficially.

Item 3. School Engagement

No updates were heard for this item.

Item 4. Youth Public Health

Fargo Cass Public Health Public Information Officer Holly Scott and Fargo Chief Communications Officer Gregg Schildberger shared about a potential youth substance abuse prevention campaign. Members asked questions and gave feedback on outreach and messaging strategies. Those interested in serving on a smaller focus group are encouraged to email Holly at HScott@FargoND.gov.

Assistant Planner Catlyn Christie shared updates on behalf of Fargo Cass Public Health Community Health Educator Abby Lange, including thanks to FYI members for supporting the Anti-Tobacco Youth Action Summit on March 4 and serving on the youth panel of the Cass Clay Suicide Prevention Coalition's summit on April 8.

Item 5. Youth Homelessness

Commissioner Kolpack provided updates on the City's efforts to address homelessness, including advocacy at the legislative session for funding and continuing to lean on nonprofit partners in the "United to End Homelessness" program. She encouraged

Members to stay engaged, make public comments at City Commission meetings, and share their perspectives as youth.

Item 6. Fargo Transit Discussion

Assistant Planner Catlyn Christie shared information on behalf of Transit Planner Luke Grittner regarding MATBUS usage and responses to questions Members had submitted. Members expressed interest in learning more about how situations are monitored on the bus and what interventions are possible to ensure youth rider safety and comfort.

Commissioner Kolpack invited members to attend MATBUS Coordination Committee meetings which are technical but always open to public input. She also described funding issues the transit system currently faces.

Item 7. North Dakota Legislative Session

Commissioner Kolpack shared an overview of key legislative activity of impact the City including property tax reform, approval voting revocation, and funding for the Red River water supply. Further discussion was held regarding other bills such as cell phone bans, housing funding, book bans, and library and museum funding.

Item 8. Volunteering Discussion

Chair Meyer said she is working to set up a group volunteering effort for something related to homelessness, to align with the board's focus areas this year.

Item 9. Liaison and Staff Reports

Commissioner Kolpack shared a report on City Commission items including the budget cycle and the upcoming mayoral and City Commission race, including consideration for adding two more seats to the City Commission.

Member Hamidi shared a report on the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee.

Assistant Planner Christie shared a report on behalf of Librarian Anna Lynch that she is tabling at the high schools in response to Members' input last meeting. Christie also shared that she submitted their feedback for the City's Land Diagnostic Code re-write and there is interest in further collaboration in June. Meanwhile, Members can visit FargoLDC.org/Project-Documents and watch "Code Connect" session recordings for updates.

Item 10. Announcements

Vice Chair Babingui shared an invitation to attend an Umoja event on April 18 at 5:30pm at the Arbors for students to review and present solutions on improving their communities.

Item 11. Adjourn – Next meeting May 4, 2025

The time of adjournment was 2:57 p.m.

FARGO YOUTH INITIATIVE MINUTES

Regular Meeting:

Sunday, May 4, 2025

A Meeting of the Fargo Youth Initiative Members of the City of Fargo, North Dakota, was held in Atomic Coffee, 222 Broadway N #100, at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, May 4, 2025.

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

Present*: Ava Bach, Drew Burris, Isabella Meyer, Kaj Naujokas, Reanna Quiah, Lucy Paul, McKenzie Olson, Steph Kramer

Absent: Aiden Rosten, Abigail Hamilton, Ashley Hsu, Erica Johnson, Harper Reiniger, Justin Jiang, Kallie Anderson, Koral Siegal, Lillian Dybing, Minou Babingui, Rose Ali, Setiya Hamidi

**Due to lack of quorum for an official meeting, the meeting commenced with informal presentation and discussion.*

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

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

Item 2. Approve Agenda & Minutes

This item was tabled due to lack of quorum.

Item 3. School Engagement

Fargo School Board Liaison Kristin Nelson solicited feedback regarding the recently approved legislation to ban cell phones in schools. Discussion was held regarding policy design considerations and anticipated outcomes. She also opened discussion to feedback on potential student engagement models to implement in schools for enhanced communication with leadership.

Item 4. Youth Public Health

Assistant Planner Catlyn Christie shared updates on behalf of Fargo Cass Public Health Community Health Educator Abby Lange, including thanks to FYI members for supporting the 2nd Annual Suicide Prevention Summit on April 8. She also shared that there is interest from school counselors to continue collaboration with Members on enhancing lessons plans on mental health.

Chair Meyer shared an update that she and two other Members have begun coordinating with Fargo Cass Public Health on meetings for the youth substance abuse prevention campaign that was proposed at the April meeting.

Item 5. Youth Homelessness

Members watched a video of the recent homelessness strategy presentation from City Commission on April 28 and asked follow-up questions.

Item 6. North Dakota Legislative Session

Chair Meyer shared about the status of bills of interest in the North Dakota Legislative Session. She also shared that she has some upcoming advocacy opportunities in Washington, D.C. and invited Members to share their ideas with her.

Item 7. Volunteering Discussion

Chair Meyer said she is working to set up a group volunteering effort for something related to homelessness, to align with the board's focus areas this year.

Item 8. Liaison and Staff Reports

No reports were given.

Item 9. Announcements

Chair Meyer shared the dates of upcoming City Commission meetings. Member Kramer shared that she will be presenting to the Fargo School Board in May to propose media literacy coursework.

Item 10. Adjourn – Next meeting June 1, 2025

The time of adjournment was 2:50 p.m.

FARGO YOUTH INITIATIVE MINUTES

Regular Meeting:

Sunday, June 1, 2025

A Meeting of the Fargo Youth Initiative Members of the City of Fargo, North Dakota, was held in Atomic Coffee, 222 Broadway N #100, at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, June 1, 2025.

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

Present*: Ashley Hsu, Ava Bach, Drew Burris, Erica Johnson, Harper Reiniger, Isabella Meyer, Justin Jiang, Kaj Naujokas, Lucy Paul, Minou Babingui Setiya Hamidi

Absent: Aiden Rosten, Abigail Hamilton, Kallie Anderson, Koral Siegal, Lillian Dybing, Rose Ali, Reanna Quiah, McKenzie Olson, Steph Kramer

**Due to lack of quorum for an official meeting, the meeting commenced with informal presentation and discussion.*

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

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

Item 2. Approve Agenda & Minutes

This item was tabled due to lack of quorum at the time of the agenda item.

Item 3. School Engagement

No updates were heard.

Item 4. Youth Public Health

Chair Meyer shared an update that she and fellow Members who volunteered for the youth substance abuse prevention campaign are awaiting further coordination from Fargo Cass Public Health.

Item 5. Youth Homelessness

Representatives of the North Dakota Youth Action Board, Axel Beckett and Shawnel Willer, joined virtually to share about the North Dakota Youth Action Board and opportunities for further engagement.

Item 6. Ground Mural Project Collaboration

Artist and Folkways representative Lesleyanne Buegel joined virtually to share about an upcoming ground mural project located downtown and invited members to volunteer. Members asked questions about the project as well as how to pursue their own ideas for local murals.

Item 7. North Dakota Legislative Session

Chair Meyer shared that the North Dakota Legislative Session is officially concluded. She also shared that she has some upcoming advocacy opportunities in Washington, D.C. and invited Members to share their ideas with her.

Item 8. Volunteering Discussion

Chair Meyer suggested using the ground mural project as a volunteering opportunity.

Item 9. Liaison and Staff Reports

Assistant Planner Catlyn Christie shared on behalf of the City that they are undergoing the 2026 budget process and in tandem reviewing the governance structures and support in place for some citizen advisory boards, including Fargo Youth Initiative.

In response, Chair Meyer shared feedback that she values the access to connections with city officials that has been afforded by Fargo Youth Initiative and its Impact Fargo event, on a variety of topics that are of importance to youth such as the phone bill ban, sustainability, and public health. Member Hamidi shared feedback that Impact Fargo was what led her to apply to Fargo Youth Initiative and that she values the new perspectives and connections and opportunities for impact that it brought. She added that monthly meetings are valuable for her since youth make up a large part of the population and an opportunity for their feedback is important. Chair Meyer added that there is value in introducing the youth to how government works, which is important to making more informed decisions and fostering civic engagement.

Member Hamidi shared as liaison to the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee that she will attend meetings as she is able and share some ideas including for a sustainability mural.

Assistant Planner Catlyn Christie shared an update on behalf of the Planning Department that there are several upcoming LDC Workshops in June.

Assistant Planner Catlyn Christie shared an update on behalf of the Parks District that they have an interactive engagement site for their Park System Master Plan at [Connect.FargoParks.com](https://connect.fargoparks.com).

Item 10. Announcements

Chair Meyer shared the dates of upcoming City Commission meetings.

Item 11. Adjourn

The time of adjournment was 2:30 p.m.



APPROVED BY THE BOARD
OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
5-13-13

BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS

City Hall
200 North 3rd Street
Fargo, ND 58102

Phone: 701-241-1310
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(1)

TO: Board of City Commissioners
FROM: Commissioner Melissa Sobolik
DATE: May 8, 2013
RE: Youth Advisory Commission

On October 29, 2012 the City Commission voted to support the creation of a Youth Advisory Commission. Since then we have convened a group of 14 young leaders and 5 mentors to work through the design of this group. We have had 12 working meetings, equaling over 320 hours and look forward to presenting our findings to you on Monday, May 13th.

The design process we followed was a bit foreign to the adult mentors; no decisions were made ahead of time and the students made each and every decision. Mentors were there as guides and to ask thought provoking questions, not to push an agenda or idea. The students wrestled with questions about a name, vision, mission, purpose, terms, diversity, equality and organizational structure. Regardless of which school they were from, their age, or their ideas, they were all united in making this group sustainable year-after-year and making something that works for them.

The name of this group is Fargo Youth Initiative (FYI). The mission is "Empowering the voice and uniting the youth of Fargo through actions and teamwork." The students will be sharing the details about FYI at the May 13th City Commission meeting and look forward to moving this group forward to bettering the City of Fargo.

Attached you will find a list of student participants, a Resolution that outlines FYI's work, and a list of the mentors that helped guide the process over the past few months. I greatly appreciate your support of this new initiative and the inclusion of new voices into the City process. Thank you.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Adopt a Resolution creating the Fargo Youth Initiative as an official City committee and appointing Martin Altenburg, Alicia Anderson, Matthew Bauske, Obbie Bladholm, Tom Burgum, Elizabeth Fisher, Laurie Heggedal, Kally Kvidera, Emma McIntyre, Andrew Park, Jackson Ridl, Lauren Singelmann, Mason Thimjon, Ellen Trotter, Rachel Ward, Mari Natwick, and Clay Bachmeier as the first Fargo Youth Initiative members for the 2013-2014 school year.



FYI Planning Committee:

Martin Altenburg	North	9 th Grade
Alicia Anderson	North	12 th Grade
Matthew Bauske	Davies	11 th Grade
Obbie Bladholm	Oak Grove	11 th Grade
Tom Burgum	Oak Grove	9 th Grade
Elizabeth Fisher	Davies	10 th Grade
Laurie Heggedal	South	11 th Grade
Kally Kvidera	North	12 th Grade
Emma McIntyre	North	10 th Grade
Andrew Park	Davies	12 th Grade
Jackson Ridl	Davies	12 th Grade
Lauren Singelmann	North	12 th Grade
Mason Thimjon	Sullivan	8 th Grade
Ellen Trotter	Davies	10 th Grade

A special thanks to these Big Kids for their guidance during the design phase:

Dan Fisher
Rebecca Fisher
Dan Mahli
Robin Nelson
Melissa Sobolik

Commissioner Sobolik introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION CREATING FARGO YOUTH INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the Board of City Commissioners approved a study of the idea of creating a Youth Advisory Commission and placed Fargo City Commissioner Melissa Sobolik in charge of the study; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of City Commissioners recognizes the value of including the City's youth on an advisory committee that is empowered to provide input to City staff and to the Board of City Commissioners; and,

WHEREAS, Commissioner Sobolik convened a group of fourteen (14) young leaders and five (5) mentors to consider the matter and develop the concept, vision, mission, purpose and structure for such an advisory body; and,

WHEREAS, having received the report from Commissioner Sobolik regarding the work done by the said group, the Board of City Commissioners wishes to establish a committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:

A. The Board of City Commissioners hereby authorizes and creates the Fargo Youth Initiative, which will consist of up to 20 members appointed by the Mayor of the City, with the consent of the Board of City Commissioners, that will act as an advisor to the Board of City Commissioners.

B. The mission of the Fargo youth committee is to empower the voice and unite the youth of Fargo through action and team work.

C. Staffing for the committee will be coordinated by the Department of Planning and Development.

D. The Fargo Youth Initiative is hereby authorized to establish internal rules, or bylaws, for the holding of regular meetings and for such other matters as the Fargo Youth Initiative may deem appropriate.

E. The Fargo Youth Initiative shall be an advisory body and shall make recommendations to the Board of City Commissioners.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly seconded by Commissioner Wimmer. On roll call vote, the following Commissioners voted aye: Sobolik
Wimmer, Williams, Mahoney, Walaker. The

following Commissioners voted nay:
None _____ . The following were absent and
not voting: None _____ , so the motion carried and the
Resolution was duly adopted.