

**BOARD OF NATIVE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting:**

**Thursday:**

**February 4, 2016:**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Native American Commissioners of the City of Fargo, North Dakota, was held in the City Commission Room at City Hall at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, February 4, 2016.

The Native American Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Guy Fox, Crystal Gonzales, Sharon White Bear, David Donahue, Connie Longie, Maylynn Warne, John Strand

Absent: Clinton Alexander, Melissa Sobolik

Also Present: Willard Yellow Bird, Kristina Kaupa, Cristie Jacobsen

**Item 1. Welcome and Introductions**

Vice Chair Fox welcomed Members to the meeting and introductions were made.

**Item 2. Approve Order of Agenda and Minutes**

Ms. White Bear moved the Order of Agenda and Minutes from the regular meeting of January 2016 be approved as presented. Second by Ms. Gonzales. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 3. Presentation by the American Indian Health Resources Center, Planned Parenthood and Sing Our Rivers Red**

Gretchen Dobervich spoke regarding oral health disparities in tribal and rural communities in North Dakota, a topic that will be discussed at the May Oral Health Summit in Bismarck. Information will be provided as the summit schedule is finalized. To address the lack of care, Ms. Gonzales urged individuals to advocate for the recognition and certification of advanced practice dental hygienists by contacting their legislators and tribal council representatives. Contact information can be found at the North Dakota Dental Access website. The Native American Commission plans to partner with Gretchen to create a training that would allow individuals to most effectively share their stories to affect the legislative process.

Zach Packineau, Educational Outreach Specialist for Planned Parenthood in North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota, presented on the SHARP Program (Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention). He stated Planned Parenthood is looking to implement this program within the tribal youth community, similarly to the Reach One Teach One Program, and asked that the Commission help to identify individuals that may benefit from both the SHARP and Reach One Teach One programs.

Tanya RedRoad, representing the Native American Center, presented information on the Sing Our Rivers Red Event to be held on Sunday, February 14, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. at the Main Fargo Public Library and progressing to the Moorhead Center Mall. Ms. White Bear encouraged commissioners and city representatives to attend.

**Item 4. Funding Updates**

Information regarding the budget from the January retreat will be sent out to the Native American Commission and voted on at the March meeting.

**Item 5. Activities and Other Business**

Vice Chair Fox recommended that the Commission work to partner with the local colleges and universities' Native Student Organizations and will invite MSUM's American Indian Student Association (AISA) to present at the March meeting and discuss avenues for partnership.

Vice Chair Fox recommended that the Commission work to keep the issues discussed tonight active and that action and/or advocacy take place.

Ms. Warne asked that the Commission review the results of the Fargo-Moorhead American Indian Health Survey. Vice Chair Fox indicated that it would be placed on the March agenda and that the health and wellness committee would present.

Cultural Planner Willard Yellow Bird requested that the minutes reflect the Native American Commission sponsoring the Crossroads Powwow for insurance purposes.

Ms. White Bear moved that the record show the Native American Commission is sponsoring the first annual Crossroads Powwow to the amount of \$5,000. Second by Ms. Gonzales. All members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 6. Public Comment**

No public comments were heard.

**Item 7. Announcements**

The public relations committee is working on the website at [www.fmsmokesignals.com](http://www.fmsmokesignals.com) and is accepting feedback.

Ms. Gonzales announced that the first planning meeting for the 2016 Indigenous Peoples Day celebration will take place Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. at the Fargo Public Library. Community members are invited to attend.

Ms. Warne and Mr. Alexander are applying for the Harvard Innovations in American Government Grant at the encouragement of the granting organization and Mayor Mahoney.

The Fourth Annual Winter Storytelling Event “The Heartbeat of the People” will be Saturday, February 27, 2016 from 12 p.m.-3:30 p.m. at Carl Ben, for more information contact the Native American Association.

The Fargo Marathon has requested the Native American drumming group be present at this year’s marathon. Ms. White Bear agreed to work with the marathon planning team to arrange for the drumming group to play.

The Native American Community Picnic will be held Saturday, August 27, 2016 at the Oak Grove main shelter, planning will start in the upcoming months.

**Item 8.                      Adjourn**

The time at adjournment was 7:03 p.m.