

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

**Regular Meeting:**

**Thursday:**

**June 2, 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, June 2, 2016.

The Native American Commissioners were present or absent were as follows:

Present: Clinton Alexander, Sharon White Bear, John Strand, Maylynn Warne, Crystal Gonzales,

Absent: Guy Fox, David Donahue, Connie Longie, Melissa Sobolik

Also Present: Willard YellowBird, Kristina Kaupa, Tanya RedRoad

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

Chair Alexander welcomed Members to the meeting and introductions were made. For lack of a quorum, Chair Alexander recommended that the commission proceed to Item 3.

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

Quorum was reached and in review of the minutes, Chair Alexander noted that the spelling of Vanessa "Timmons" in Item 7 be changed to "Tibbets" as well as Melanie "Stabner" be changed to "Staebner" in Item 5.

Ms. White Bear moved the Order of Agenda be approved as presented and the minutes of the April, 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 Native American Commission meeting be approved on the condition that the edits noted by Chair Alexander be made. Second by Crystal Gonzales. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

### **Item 3. Good of the Order**

#### **a. Announcements**

Ms. Gonzales announced that North Dakota Democratic Caucus for the presidential election will be held Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. Those interested in participating must be registered democrats in the state of North Dakota, which can be done online at [www.vote.nd.gov](http://www.vote.nd.gov) and pre-registration can <http://demnd.com/caucus/pre-register>. The Republican Primary has already occurred.

Chair Alexander noted that Native voter turnout and representation tends to be low, and as a result the commission is partnering with other local groups and organizations to plan events surrounding Native voter engagement.

The Fargo Police Picnic is Tuesday June 21<sup>st</sup>, at Island Park from 5pm-8pm and the Native American Commission will have a table in the cultural corner. Funding has been allocated by the commission for the event. Commissioners are to contact Willard or Kristina with times they are available to be at the event.

#### **b. Presentations**

Boy Scout troop 229, based out of Lincoln Elementary School, with members largely from South Fargo, will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the upcoming year. Troop Leader Lance Steiner introduced Wacey White Bear, a troop member who made 6 benches for the Fargo Native American Commission and community's sweat lodge for his Eagle Scout Project. Wacey presented the Commission with one of his cedar benches, the other 5 have been delivered to the sweat lodge.

#### **Item 4. Updates**

##### **a. Committees**

##### **1. Education**

The Fargo Native American Commission has requested that the Fargo Indian Education Parent Committee become the standing committee for the Fargo Native American Commission's Education Committee. Ms. Warne noted that the Indian Education Parent Committee will vote at their upcoming meeting on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> to approve this recommendation. This action is an effort to streamline processes and communication within the Native community. Currently, the two separate committees are made up of the same stakeholders.

##### **2. Indigenous Peoples Day**

Ms. Gonzales noted that the event will be held Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at the Stage at Island Park, with NDSU and MSUM as confirmed partners in the event. The community is invited to attend a series of speakers that evening. Details to follow. Those interested in assisting with the event are encouraged to attend the Indigenous Peoples Day planning committee meeting on Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm at the downtown Fargo Public Library.

##### **3. Health & Wellness**

Chair Alexander noted that the Native American Community Health Assessment was presented on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Carlson Public Library and received very well by community health leaders. The committee hopes to create further avenues in our committee to increase access to health care. The Health & Wellness Committee is working to have Dr. Warne present again from 10am-12pm on Thursday July 14<sup>th</sup>, the location is to be determined.

Chair Alexander also noted that the committee is exploring opportunities to bring back the Urban Indian Health and Wellness Center. Chair Alexander asks that the Health and Wellness Committee work to develop a strategic plan and cation steps to move forward on a Health and Wellness Center and general partnerships with the city and local university to increase access and overall health of the Native community.

Mr. Strand asked that the commission work to publish their resources (specifically, the Native American Community Health Survey) digitally so that the commission's work and reach may be expanded.

The health survey results can be found at [www.ndpha.org](http://www.ndpha.org)

**Item 5. Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business was discussed.

**Item 6. New Business**

**a. Health & Wellness Project**

Updates were given on the Health & Wellness Project during the Health & Wellness Committee Updates. See above.

**b. Annual Recognition Process**

The commission discussed that the potential for creation of an annual award in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples Day. The award would be in a family's namesake and would be presented as a part of the Indigenous Peoples Day celebration, annually.

Ms. White Bear motioned that Chair Alexander create and appoint members to an adhoc committee that would discuss the current recognition and awards process and develop a process for the annual award and other recognitions throughout the year. Second by Mr. Strand. Ms. Warne noted that perhaps this could become a standing committee in the future, for community nominations as well as nominations for appointments to the Native American Commission. All members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**c. Voter Participation**

Chair Alexander noted that the Executive Committee will be working to plan an event at the Fargo Public Library, on a Wednesday evening (to be determined) in June surrounding the local and national elections, as well as to raise awareness of issues important to and faced by Native peoples in North Dakota. The event will also aim to increase voter participation in the upcoming local and national elections. among local and state-wide candidates.

Ms. Gonzales noted that her term and Chair Alexander's term as commissioner and chair expire at the end of the month. As such, Mr. Fox is set to assume the position of chair as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. The city commission and school board will also be appointing new representatives in the coming months.

Ms. White Bear motioned that the commission extend the term of Chair Alexander and review the times at which positions are voted upon in the calendar year so that they do not coincide with school board and city commission re-appointments. Second by Ms. Warne.

The commission discussed the appointment process and what can be done to address the vacancies in the coming months, as well as the potential for updating the process for the future. City of Fargo staff support, Kristina Kaupa suggested that the motion and second be withdrawn so that the executive committee, with staff assistance, can ensure the commission is acting in compliance with the city's Mayoral Appointment process and the Native American Commission's bylaws. A special meeting will be held before the end of the month, if necessary, to appoint a chair.

Second withdrawn by Ms. Warne. Motion withdrawn by Ms. White Bear.

**Item 7. Public Comment (12:30 p.m.)**

No Public Comment was heard.

**Item 8. Adjourn**

The time of adjournment was 6:48p.m.