

Disability Awareness Commission

Minutes

Human Relations Conference Room, City Hall

December 16, 2009 3:00pm

Call to Order

Co-chairperson Fiedler called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

Commission members present: Travis Arneson, Misty Farabee, Ardell Fiedler, Nancy Johnson, Vicki Nelson, Lynda O'Connor-Ohayon, and Ted Ornas

Commission members absent: Patty Brooks and Peggy Carmichael,

Staff present: Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant

Guest(s) present: Jeff Schmitt, Assistant Director of Planning

Welcome Guests

Jeff Schmitt, Assistant Director of Planning – 2010 Census Information Presentation

Schmitt talked to us about the 2010 census and how important it is that everyone that lives in Sioux Falls is counted. The census numbers not only influence the number of representatives the state is allowed but also influences federal funding (\$4 trillion over the next 10 years.) The 2010 count will take place on Thursday, April 1, 2010. Schmitt is sharing this information with us so as members of the service community we can get the information out about the count, its importance, and to be able to address any concerns our clients/customers may have about the census. The tag line for this decennial census is: *It's in Our Hands*. This means it is our responsibility as a community to be sure everyone who resides in Sioux Falls is counted. We can't come back later and say we don't think the numbers are correct – because this group or that group wasn't counted. We need to find ways to ensure everyone is counted – only once and in the right location (where they are residing on 4/1/10).

Approval of Minutes

O'Connor moved to approve the October 21, 2009, meeting minutes; Johnson seconded. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Continuing Business

Awareness Training Committee Report - the DAC has been a part of three awareness trainings. A few new things were learned from the last session at the Diversity Conference. Primarily don't forget an ASL interpreter especially if one of the panelists has a hearing impairment. The evaluations from the training were positive. Farabee counted about 50 attended the session.

DAC members pointed out that the venue stage wasn't accessible and would have worked better if the panel was on a stage and the microphone situation was awkward. Also regarding some of the conference presentations, the youth panel didn't include a person with a disability.

2009 Projects Update –

Art Exhibit –ARTability – Nancy Johnson reported

The call for art was sent out. Farabee secured KELO TV as the media sponsor and Accents on Events (Achieve) to provide food for the artist's reception.

Farabee pointed out that Friend's Link at Augie has scheduled two oil painting classes. They haven't scheduled the training for preparing art for the exhibit yet. She also asked that we start looking for picture frames that can be used – nothing fancy, but be looking in your closet or garage or clearance sales.

We will be sending another reminder after the first of the year. Fiedler suggested we use Transit to help advertise. The ads inside the bus are free.

Raised Bed Garden Project – Garry and Farabee are going to purchase the supplies after today's meeting. Garry received final approval to spend the money at a meeting just before this one. The materials will be stored at the Park Shop until it gets warm enough in the spring to start putting them together.

The beds will be shorter than originally planned. We will not be promoting these as accessible garden beds because the area they're located in isn't truly accessible. Future park plans for the area will incorporate making them accessible.

We will contact SALSA again to see if they are still interested in this as a spring project. We will also need volunteers to supervise construction. When we get closer to warmer weather, we will work out possible project work dates.

Hotel Guide Update - postponed until next meeting as no further information has been received.

New Business

Business Resource Network – Vicki Nelson – Nelson updated the group on the BRN. They are currently putting together a budget that they will be submitting to the state office of vocational rehab. The budget will be used to hire an executive director and office equipment - initially. The BRN will provide education/awareness to the business community. They hope to hear about the proposed budget by June 2010. After the plan is approved they will apply for their 501c3 and appoint a board of directors. They aren't planning on having memberships at first because having memberships means having expectations and this is not at that level yet. The organizations currently involved are: Qwest, City of Sioux Falls, Avera, SF Development Foundation, Citibank, CCC Information Systems, the VA, Home Federal and Voc Rehab.

Nelson also reported on a program called *Project Search*. It is a program that Avera is looking at and a group from Sioux Falls and Aberdeen went to Cincinnati where the program has been in place for a number of years. The program is meant to transition youth with disabilities from school to jobs. The program in Cincinnati is set up as an unpaid internship where they rotate to different jobs every ten weeks for about nine months working almost a complete work day. Once they've completed their internships individuals have first opportunity at any job openings. They have a 90% placement rate. Project Search has a cost to

ensure the program is set up and run in the same way – they want to ensure the quality of the program under the Project Search name.

Accessible America Award - The National Organization on Disabilities was contacted and they don't have a sponsor for the 2010 competition. So no Accessible America Award for 2010. They hope to be able to continue in the future.

January 2010 Election of Officers – Per Ordinance, at the first meeting of the year, the board shall elect officers whom shall serve until the first meeting of the following year. Fiedler said she will not continue as a co-chairperson; Farabee would like to continue as a co-chair and Carmichael had previously indicated that she would be interested in serving as a co-chair this leaves an opening for third officer. Farabee nominated Nelson for the position. The slate of officers that will be presented at the next meeting will be Farabee and Carmichael, co-chair and Nelson, third officer.

Garry explained the role of the DAC chair as the liaison to the Human Relations Commission. The DAC chair attends the HRC meeting to let the Commission know what the DAC is doing and can report back to the DAC what the HRC is doing.

HRC Report

Farabee reported that the HRC did not meet in December, but reported on the November meeting. André Oliver from the NAACP gave a presentation. The NAACP is reestablishing the organization in Sioux Falls. They have an office at the Multi-Cultural Center and the office is open on Monday & Thursday afternoons.

HUD Contract Update – the Commission was working to receive a contract from HUD to process fair housing complaints and this required making Chapter 21 1/2 (Human Relations Ordinance) substantially equivalent to the federal fair housing laws. They found out earlier in the year that funding wasn't available for contracts right now, but submitted the revised ordinance for review anyway. Review came back with a lot more suggested revisions. Now they need to decide if they will continue the process.

They discussed the Diversity Conference which was the week after this meeting.

They also discussed resolving cases in a timely manner with only one investigator and marketing the HRC.

Public Comment

Ornas reported on a project he is working on with John Ford, SF Business News. Ford has a radio program on Monday and Friday 10am – Noon. Ted will have three – five minutes on each program to provide information and awareness on disability issues that relate to employment/business. DAC members offered suggestions on program ideas.

Adjournment

Having no further business, Farabee moved and O'Connor seconded to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2009, @ 3:00pm, HRC Conference Room, First Floor, City Hall.

Minutes submitted by Carol Garry.