

Disability Awareness Commission
Minutes
First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
February 15, 2012 3:00pm

Call to Order

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

Commission members present: Julie Briggs, Peggy Carmichael, Ardell Fiedler, Nancy Johnson, Vicki Nelson and Lynda O'Connor-Ohayon.

Commission members absent: Travis Arneson, Patty Brooks, and Misty Farabee

Staff present: Colleen Moran, Human Relations Manager and Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant

Guest(s) present: Sarah Dykstra, SD Achieve & People First and Angela Bailey, CAO Paralegal Intern

Welcome Guest(s)

Moran introduced our guests. Sarah Dykstra is here again from SD Achieve and the People First group. Angela Bailey is interning for the City Attorney as a paralegal.

Approval of Minutes

Fiedler moved to approve the January 18, 2012, meeting minutes; Carmichael seconded. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Continuing Business

Committees - Chairperson Named –

ARTAbility – Committee = Johnson, Farabee and Carmichael – Farabee was named Chairperson

Awareness – Committee = O'Connor, Briggs, Nelson, Johnson – Briggs was chosen as Chairperson

Convention Visitor's Bureau (CVB) – Committee = Brooks, Briggs – Brooks is Chairperson

Library – Committee = Carmichael, O'Connor – Carmichael is Chairperson

Mentoring Day – Committee = Carmichael, Briggs, Moran, Nelson and Sarah Dykstra – Moran will chair

Citizens on Parking Patrol (COPP) – Committee = Farabee, O'Connor – Farabee was named Chair

Website (City's) – on hold until the new revisions are in place –Farabee

Committee reports:

ARTAbility - Johnson reported

Contact was made with the Museum of Visual Materials and January/February 2013 will be reserved for ARTAbility. Thursday, January 24, 2013, is set as the tentative date for the artists' reception. Nan Baker with the SF Arts Council will help with the Call to Art. SF Park and Rec will include it in their winter 2012/13 publication.

CVB- Garry reported

Information regarding the changes from the ADAAA regarding hotel accessibility was forwarded to the CVB. We also sent them information regarding training on the new regulations to share with their members.

COPP

Moran asked Angela Bailey, the paralegal intern with the City Attorney's office to research what other communities are doing about vehicles that are illegally parked in accessible parking spaces. Bailey reported that most communities have volunteers that go through a four hour training and then some continuing education. She is continuing to research other websites.

Sarah Dykstra asked if this program will fix the problem. Statics show that enforcement/fines are a good deterrent.

New Business

NDEAM Support for 2013

The DAC will continue to support NDEAM's October event with printing/marketing materials.

White Cane Day – Moran

White Cane Day is a national program to bring awareness to the responsibilities relating to white cane users. White Cane Law defines the conditions that a vehicle needs to stop/yield for someone using a white cane.

They are also addressing the issue of making electric cars noisier so people can hear them coming. This is not only significant for those with limited vision but also other pedestrians, bicyclists, joggers, etc. that share the road and can't hear the quiet cars approach.

The DAC is interested in supporting this cause. Moran will update as plans evolve.

Roundtable – Garry

Garry thought members should have an opportunity to let the group know about disability awareness issues/events that their organizations are working on or other organizations they are involved with that would be of interest to the Commission. This could create another level of awareness for these issues/events.

HRC Report

Briggs reported that the HRC has tweaked their complaint process. In an effort to speed the process, rebuttal statements from the complaining parties are encouraged to be done in person versus written statements. She also reported

that mediations are down compared to the previous year. Many factors at play as to why but there is no clear cause.

The HRC was updated on their committees' activities.

Roundtable/Public Comment

Dykstra informed the DAC that SD Achieve's Pancake Feed will be Sunday, April 22, 2013, 7:30am – 2pm at the Coliseum (Multi-Cultural Center)

Johnson reported that there will be a meeting in May with a technical assistant who will provide social security benefit training for state employees.

Nelson reported that Project Search is adding another school beginning the next school year in Watertown.

Briggs reported that she is working on the 2013 NDEAM event. Plans are for a morning meeting with a breakfast that will have a panel of employers who have hired people with disabilities.

Carmichael shared that DakotAbilities has opened a new seven bed house on 5th Street near the St. Vincent DePaul store. This is the fourth house opened in the last two years. She also reported that Special Olympics is hosting a soup supper (fundraiser) on February 20th at 4:30pm at Lincoln High School followed by a Special Olympics basketball game. Also this year's Polar Plunge is April 21st - \$100 to take the plunge. The Special Olympic Spring Games are May 17-19 in Spearfish.

Adjournment

Having no further business, **Carmichael moved and Briggs seconded to adjourn**; the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2012 @ 3:00pm, First Floor Meeting Room, City Hall.

Minutes submitted by Carol Garry.