

Disability Awareness Commission
Minutes
First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
March 21, 2012 3:00pm

Call to Order

Co-chairperson Nelson called the meeting to order at 3:03PM.

Commission members present: Julie Briggs, Patty Brooks, Peggy Carmichael, Misty Farabee, and Vicki Nelson.

Commission members absent: Travis Arneson, Ardell Fiedler, Nancy Johnson, and Lynda O'Connor-Ohayon

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

Guest(s) present: Sarah Dykstra, SD Achieve & People First

Welcome Guest(s)

Sarah Dykstra is here again from SD Achieve and the People First group.

Approval of Minutes

Farabee moved to approve the February 15, 2012, meeting minutes; Carmichael seconded. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Continuing Business

Committees - Updates –

ARTAbility – Committee = Johnson, Farabee (Chairperson) and Carmichael

The Dare to Dream call for art was recently sent out. ARTAbility will wait a bit before sending out the call for art – goal is April 16, 2012.

December 7, 2012, is the date art will need to be turned in. January 2 & 3, 2013 are the dates art will be accepted at the MoVM. The committee will start contacting the other vendors for the event soon.

Awareness – Committee = O'Connor, Briggs (Chairperson), Nelson, Johnson

The Awareness Committee recently met. They are working on the NDEAM event in October. There will be two sessions in October; more to report at the next meeting.

Avera had declined the offer for awareness training. There may have been some miscommunication so Briggs contacted Julie Benz at Avera. They will meet to explore the possibility of training.

The 'Spread the Word to End the Word' was successful, especially for the first year of the event. There were presentations at all of the high schools except O'G.

Mayor Huether read a proclamation at the City Council meeting. Dykstra reported that Achieve offered online access for their clients and staff to take the pledge. Next year promises to be bigger and better.

The Roosevelt mentoring training for the students that mentor students with disabilities may happen next school year.

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

The new regulations were shared with our contact at the CVB. The guidelines will be forwarded to the CVB members and no further outreach is planned at this time.

The CVB website now has accessibility information and survey results returned by some of their members.

Doing something with restaurants was brought up. That is something the BRN is working on and the DAC could partner with them in the future.

Library – Committee = Carmichael (Chairperson), O'Connor

No action taken yet.

Mentoring Day – Committee = Carmichael, Briggs, Moran (Chairperson), Nelson and Sarah Dykstra

This committee has met once and plans to meet again in April. Voc Rehab will be a great resource to use for the project.

Citizens on Parking Patrol (COPP) – Committee =Farabee (Chairperson), O'Connor

Farabee and Garry both looked at a few sites. Garry has emailed a couple for more information.

Website (City's) –Farabee

The City's restyled website was launched last week. Moran asked that the DAC review and give input to staff.

Farabee has looked at it and the first impression is that it has been cleaned up; the navigation around the site is better. The DAC projects need to be listed under Active Projects and we need to get the logos on there.

White Cane Day – Moran

Fiedler sent information out about the SD laws that apply to white cane travel. The committee will be meeting March 26th; Moran will have more information at the next DAC meeting.

New Business

New DAC Members – There are three possible vacancies on the Commission. Staff asked for recommendations from the board. Farabee recommended someone who volunteers with Special Olympics and works in the daycare at the YWCA. Staff will send out an application.

Staff will contact O'Connor regarding her reappointment.

HRC Report

Nelson reported that the HRC has seen an increase in the number of charges being filed in February. The case panel will have three cases to review.

The HRC Education Committee has made a list of the events they want to be at this year and they are working on revising their handout literature.

The HRC Events Committee is revamping the Humanitarian Award process to make it easier and fairer.

The Community Connections program met with the Chief of Police to learn more about the department and the programs available to the public. The Community Connections program was developed to provide an opportunity for those who are active or take a leadership role in the community to learn about the different city departments – what they do and what services they offer to the community.

Roundtable/Public Comment

Carmichael shared that practice is starting for the Special Olympics Spring Games in Spearfish, May 4th & 5th.

Farabee reminded everyone about the Special Olympics Polar Plunge on April 21st. Also volunteers are needed for Special Olympics.

Brooks said the Compass Center's 'In the Bag' event was a success; it has grown from the previous year. Their next event is a golf tournament on June 28th.

Briggs talked about the BRN sticker that will be given to business that are ADA accessible, remove barriers, and promote hiring of people with disabilities.

Nelson reported that Watertown is no longer planning to be a part of the SEARCH program – not for the lack of students wanting to participate.

Moran talked about the latest Community Connections learning session at the Main Library. The group (Moran included) learned about a lot of programs and resources that are available at the library. Some include: Mango, a language program and free data bases on the website to use like Consumer Reports and Ancestry.com.

Adjournment

Having no further business, **Brooks moved and Briggs seconded to adjourn;** the meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2012 @ 3:00pm, First Floor Meeting Room, City Hall.

Minutes submitted by Carol Garry.