

Disability Awareness Commission
Minutes
First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
September 19, 2012 3:00pm

Call to Order

Co-chairperson Nelson called the meeting to order at 3:12PM.

Commission members present: Julie Briggs, Peggy Carmichael, Misty Farabee, Kendra Gottsleben, Chelle Hart, Nancy Johnson, and Vicki Nelson

Commission members absent: Patty Brooks and Matt Pruner

Staff present: Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant

Guest(s) present:

Welcome Guest(s)

Approval of Minutes

Farabee moved to approve the June 20, 2012, meeting minutes; Hart seconded. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Continuing Business

Committees - Updates –

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

Farabee asked if Nelson would be the contact person for Gustaf Flowers to secure flowers again for the artists' reception. The deadline for submitting art is December 7, 2012. Staff will resend the call for art before the end of September. We haven't done it earlier because we wanted to wait until the students were settled back into school.

Awareness – Committee = Briggs (Chairperson), Nelson, Johnson, & Hart

Briggs contacted the school district and Sanford again about awareness trainings.

A reminder about the NDEAM awareness event on October 11, 2012, at the Sanford Center, 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Moran will be the main speaker and they will have a panel of employers speaking on hiring people with disabilities. Posters were emailed out and the information is on the BRN website.

Citizens on Parking Patrol (COPP) – Committee =Farabee (Chairperson), Pruner, staff

This is still on hold until staff is able to meet and get the go ahead from the Director.

Library – Committee = Carmichael (Chairperson)

Carmichael emailed earlier that the library won't repeat a special display. Maybe one of the branch libraries will.

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

Briggs reported they hope to have ten students and ten businesses for this event. They currently have five students from East Dakota Coop and two from Roosevelt. They want to find out what the students have an interest in before they sign on any businesses. The schedule for the day is to have them mentor for two hours and then gather for lunch for a wrap-up meeting. Farabee said KELO may be interested and could possibly do a story on mentoring @ KELO.

White Cane Day - October 13th – Moran

Hart reported that they have a banner now – White Cane Law, It's a LifeSaver. They will also hand out lifesaver candy during their march. The Lions Club will be assisting with the march.

New Business

No new business was listed on the agenda. Staff asked to add election of third officer.

Staff reviewed which terms would be ending in May 2013 and suggested a nominee be selected from the group that will still be members after that date. Farabee nominated Hart, Carmichael seconded. Hart was elected Third Officer by unanimous vote of the members present.

HRC Report

Nelson attended the HRC's September 13th meeting. She reported that the Commission is working on getting cases closed by the end of September.

The chairperson for the Humanitarian Award gave an update on the event. Tony's will cater. A new award named after Gary Colwill former Human Relations Manager – the Colwill Youth Leadership in Diversity Award will be presented. Julie Briggs from the DAC was nominated for the Humanitarian Award. The Humanitarian Award recipient revealed at the September 18th event was Juan Bonilla. The Colwill award was presented to Sarah Friedel.

Community Connections is taking applications for the next session scheduled for October 15th & 16th.

Staff presented an update on staff's activities, which included public speaking, trainings, and paratransit appeals.

The next HRC meeting will have review and update of committee assignments.

Roundtable/Public Comment

Briggs – BRN has their window cling – Disability Friendly - ready to go. It has the BRN logo and a smaller DAC logo on it. These will be distributed to businesses that employ people with disabilities, provide accommodations, and/or are accessible. No criterion has been established yet. They will start to distribute once it is in place.

A pancake breakfast fundraiser for BRN and Project Search will be on October 21st at Active Generations, 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 in advance; \$6 at the door.

They are also looking for a van for Project Search to transport individuals to work.

Farabee - After meeting with the Transition Plan Coordinators, she did some research on VSA. This stands for Very Special Art. VSA provides arts and education programming for youth and adults with disabilities around the world and is connected with the Kennedy Center having been founded Jean Kennedy Smith to provide access to the arts for all. There are affiliates around the world and across the US, but not one in SD. Four principles guide VSA programs and affiliates:

- Every young person with a disability deserves access to high quality arts learning experiences.
- All artists in schools and art educators should be prepared to include students with disabilities in their instruction.
- All children, youth, and adults with disabilities should have complete access to cultural facilities and activities.
- All individuals with disabilities who aspire to careers in the arts should have the opportunity to develop appropriate skills.

Carmichael –

Nelson - Fall Conference will be in Spearfish

Gottleben is going to San Francisco for a book signing of her book Live, Life, Lemonade.

Hart reported that the SD Association of the Blind is having their convention on September 22, 2012, at the Ramkota. They will be exploring how to raise membership numbers.

Adjournment

Having no further business, **Carmichael moved and Johnson seconded to adjourn**; the meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2012 @ 3:00pm, First Floor Meeting Room, City Hall.

Minutes submitted by Carol Garry.