

Disability Awareness Commission
Minutes
First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
September 18, 2013 3:00pm

Call to Order

Co-chairperson Nelson called the meeting to order at 3:06P.M.

Commission members present: Kendra Gottsleben, Chelle Hart, Kevin Horner, Lori Lewison (arrived @ 3:10), Vicki Nelson, Sheila Sandness and Walt Schaefer.

Commission members absent: Julie Briggs

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

Guest(s) present: none present

Welcome Guest(s)

Approval of Minutes

Hart moved to approve the August 21, 2013, minutes; - Gottsleben seconded. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Continuing Business

Committees – Updates/Committee Assignments

ArtAbility – Gottsleben (leader), Nelson, Sandness

Committee plans to meet after today's DAC meeting to get things started.

Awareness – Briggs (leader), Hart, Horner, Nelson

October 3rd is the date for the NDEAM event; you can register online at sfbrn.com. Registration opens at 7:30; breakfast is at 8 at Sanford Research. The event is sponsored by BRN and other organizations. Presentations will center on mental health.

White Cane Day march is October 12th – to create awareness/promote white cane and guide dog safety. The march starts at 121 S. Phillips Ave. at 10 a.m.

COPP – Lewison, Schaefer, Horner, staff

This committee will meet with representatives with the Police Dept. to get their input and move forward.

25th Anniversary of the ADA - Lori Lewison, Kendra Gottsleben, Vicki Nelson, and Michelle Grimm

The first step will be to contact the ADA Celebration planning committee and schedule a meeting.

Finding a venue will be staff's priority.

New Business

There was no new business discussed.

HRC Report

Garry reported on what the HRC is doing.

There was a discussion on/ wrap-up of the HRC's Humanitarian Award. Some were in favor of the new venue (Avera's Prairie Center) and the advantages of the Orpheum were also discussed. There were some comments about the absence of the caterer at the event. The task ahead is to decide if they will have another award event in 2014.

The HRC is looking at their strategic plan for 2014. They want to find ways to promote the public's awareness of the Commission and what they do for the community.

Roundtable/Public Comment

Nelson – She's been busy working on the NDEAM conference. Voc Rehab is having Benefit Specialist training on SSI and SSDI. Their fall conference is October 15, 16, & 17.

Gottsleben – Center for Disabilities is sponsoring a computer based training on October 7th. October 30 they will have a program on Autism – Developmental Disabilities and Sexual Education.

She provided disability etiquette training for the volunteers for Celebrate Church's ball for people with disabilities.

She also reported on the Christopher Reeve Foundation's training for mentors for those with spinal cord injuries.

Hart – SD Association of the Blind will be having their state convention at the Holiday Inn City Centre on September 27 & 28. The theme is 'Taking Care of Yourself through Good Health'.

Lewison – 10/1 is the date the new Healthcare Exchange will go online – she has been putting in a lot of hours getting ready for this.

Sandness – She reported that the Sanford Wellness Program works well for people with disabilities. People with disabilities have a place that has adaptive equipment that allows them to work out.

Schaefer – Reported on the ribbon cutting for their new center on North Louise Avenue. On September 26th they will recognize their Direct Support Professionals with their 'Simply the Best' program. Green Star is September 27th.

Grimm – She will be a presenter at the NDEAM's October 3rd event. She will present on mental illness accommodations.

Horner – Announced that Sanford has received a \$15,000 grant from the US Olympic Committee. They will use the money to acquire kayaks, hand cycles, and skis. They are planning four to five more kayak outings. They will be working with the VA to develop a sports club for people with disabilities that will provide training for individuals to compete in the Para-Olympics.

Moran – Shared that the recipient for the 2013 Humanitarian Award was Betty Durfee and Scotty Briggs was awarded the Colwill Youth Leadership award.

Adjournment

Having no further business, Horner moved to adjourn, Gottsleben seconded; the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Due to a number of DAC members attending the fall Voc Rehab Conference, there will not be an October meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2013 @ 3:00pm, First Floor Meeting Room, City Hall.

Minutes submitted by Carol Garry.