

Disability Awareness Commission  
Minutes  
First Floor Conference Room, City Hall  
October 15, 2014 3:00pm

**Call to Order**

Co-Chair Walt Schaefer called the meeting to order at 3:07 P.M.

Commission members present: Deb Aden, Kendra Gottsleben, Chelle Hart, Kevin Horner, Lori Lewison, Sheila Sandness, and Walt Schaefer..

Commission members absent: Michelle Grimm and Sarah Jo Jorgensen.

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

Guest(s) present:

**Welcome Guest(s)**

No guests present

**Approval of Minutes**

**Hart moved to approve the meeting minutes from August 20, 2014. Aden seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.**

**Continuing Business**

Committees – Updates

**ArtAbility (Gottsleben, Sandness, and Jorgensen - Leader – Gottsleben) –**

The call for art is ready to go out; the sponsors are all set up. We were lucky enough to get March and April again as the person who had it reserved changed plans. The reception is scheduled for Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. April's first Friday is Good Friday, so it was decided not to go with that date, even though Downtown SF is still having their first Friday events then.

Staff will get the call for art sent as soon as they can – before the end of October.

**Awareness (Horner, Hart, Grimm and Aden – Leader –Aden) –**

October 15<sup>th</sup> is White Cane Day and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual White Cane Law Day March will be on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. The March will start at First Lutheran Church on 12<sup>th</sup> & Dakota and walk to the main downtown library on 8<sup>th</sup> and Dakota. The Mayor will read the proclamation at 10 am. Refreshments and resources will be available.

In September a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee came to provide archery training.

In observance of National Disability Employment Month staff has been posting pictures of our volunteers who come in to help us out and who happen to have a disability. Go check it out on Facebook.

The Denny Sanford Premier Events Center hosted an open house on September 9<sup>th</sup> for individuals with disabilities to come and see the accessible features of the new events center. There were lots of positive comments and some suggestions on what could be improved.

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA (Lori Lewison, Deb Aden, Kendra Gottsleben, and Michelle Grimm- Leader – Lewison)**

The committee met on September 17<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the committee members were Julie Briggs from BRN and Dawn Backer with South Dakota Rehabilitation Center for the Blind (SDRC) past co-chairs of the ADA Celebration event.

The committee's brainstorming led to having three different tracks in a day long activity that would bring in people who work with individuals with disabilities, individuals with disabilities and employers of individuals with disabilities.

Possible venues would be the Convention Center and the Sanford Research building.

Horner suggested getting a para-Olympian athlete. He thinks they could be sponsored by the US Olympic Committee to participate.

We need to make some decisions soon about what, when, where so we can start soliciting sponsors.

**COPP (Schaefer, Horner, & staff – Leader – Schaefer)** – While we're waiting for the Code of Ordinances to get changed, Moran suggested we work on a video/PSA about accessible parking. For example, show someone parking in the access aisle or someone misusing a hang-tag. She asked if that was something the Awareness Committee would work on. We would be able to use CityLink as a resource to create the video.

### **New Business**

### **HRC Report**

No HRC meeting – no report

### **Roundtable/Public Comment**

**Sandness** – Sheila tried the archery and is happy to report that she did not hit anyone!

She also took part in the Live Well walk survey of downtown.

Gottsleben – Kendra recently returned from a trip to Virginia and is very busy at work.

She will be at the SD Festival of Books and present to some third graders in Tea. She is also busy planning for her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in November.

Aden – Deb will be making 113 site visits for her social work students.

She received 4 flower bouquets congratulating her on her Humanitarian Award nomination.

Hart – Chelle announced that the SD Association of the Blind is working on audio descriptions for TV shows and movies.

She has been invited to sing with the Christmas at the Cathedral this year.

Lewison – Lori has been away from work after having surgery. She reminded us all not to stop pushing when trying to find answers to a medical concern.

She also received flowers for being nominated for the Humanitarian Award, for her birthday, and for her surgery.

Moran – Colleen was happy to report that the HRC was able to meet their EEOC contract obligations for FY '14. Another session of Community Connections was held at the beginning of October and encouraged anyone interested to apply for the next session.

Schaefer – Walt reported that LifeScape's recent Green Star event was a success. His responsibility was the music therapist and found it very informative. October 29<sup>th</sup> will be the groundbreaking for a new housing project. Tickets are available for the Hegg Brother's Holiday Jam @ the Orpheum benefitting LifeScape.

Public Comment: No comments.

### **Adjournment**

**Having no further business, Lewison moved to adjourn, Gottsleben seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.**

The next DAC meeting is scheduled for November 19th, 3p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

These minutes submitted by Carol Garry.