



## **Meeting Minutes**

First Floor Conference Room, City Hall

July 15, 2015

3:00pm

**Commission members present:** Deb Aden, Kendra Gottsleben, Joyce Heiser, Kevin Horner, Sarah Jo Jorgensen, Lori Lewison, Sheila Sandness, Walter Schaefer, Tana Zwart

**Commission members absent:**

**Staff present:** Colleen Moran, Human Relations Manager and Tina Lemieux, Human Relations Technician

**Guest(s) present:** Scotty Briggs

### **Call to Order**

Co-Chair Lori Lewison called the meeting to order at 3:03 P.M.

### **Welcome Guest(s)**

The committee welcomed Scotty Briggs to the meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Sandness moved to approve the meeting minutes from June 17, 2015. Jorgensen seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Continuing Business**

#### **Committees for current and future events:**

##### **a. Events:**

- i. **ADA Celebration:** The ADA Celebration took place on July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Garden Inn. Commission members who were present at the Celebration were impressed with the breakout sessions as well as the keynote speakers. Suggestions for future events included motivating individuals with disabilities to attend as well as ensuring volunteers are at the vendor booths to assist individuals with disabilities.
- ii. **Public Events:** The Commission discussed ideas on how to share information from the Commission with service groups

**Co-Chairs:** Walter Schaefer & Lori Lewison | **3<sup>rd</sup> Chair:** Deb Aden

throughout the area. Jorgensen reported that she spoke to a Lions' Group. The Commission also discussed the White Cane Walk and ways to ensure participants are getting a hands-on experience of what it's like to live with a disability.

**b. Education and Outreach:**

- i. Wheelchair awareness: Commission members discussed several ways to raise awareness around wheelchair use including hosting an event where participants use a wheelchair for an extended time.
- ii. Public Events: No further items discussed.
- iii. Presentations: No further items discussed.

**New Business**

No new business was discussed.

**HRC Report**

Schaefer updated the DAC on the HRC June meeting. Ben Miller, who is a local writer, presented his project, Mural Speaks! Ben was initially inspired by the mural at Meldrum Park and has since began to explore the idea of having individuals read and translate the poem, "The Red Wheelbarrow" in each language spoken in Sioux Falls while standing in front of the mural. Mural Speaks! aims to communicate with, and extend, the rich spirit of the Meldrum Park mural created by Dave Loewenstein and the children of the Whittier neighborhood. To date, Ben Miller has secured more than 70 translations.

Civil rights updates included a claim of discrimination based on sexual harassment. Employees at a North Carolina public housing agency requested sexual favors from women who applied for housing in exchange for a housing voucher. If the women refused to perform sexual favors, the employees revoked the housing vouchers. As part of the lawsuit, the housing authority has been ordered to pay \$2.7 million to the victims.

A second case involved a civil rights violation. Agriculture farmers in Ohio forced individuals from Guatemala to work on farms without pay. Some Guatemala workers were as young as 14 years old and all were threatened with physical harm if they did not agree to work. The farmers smuggled the Guatemalans to the United States, forced them to live in trailer homes, and required them to work 12 hour days. The lawsuit is currently under litigation.

**Roundtable/Public Comment**

Gottleben reported that ArtAbility dates for spring 2016 have been secured. The art reception will take place on Friday, April 8, 2016 at the Museum of Visual Materials with the art show running from March – April.

Gottleben also reported that the Ms. Wheelchair South Dakota pageant will take place on September 27, 2015 at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Horner reported that adaptive kayaking will take place on Thursday, July 16, 2015.

Public Comment: No comments.

### **Adjournment**

Having no further business, Aden moved to adjourn; Horner seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

The next DAC meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2015, 3 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

*These minutes submitted by Tina Lemieux*