



## **Meeting Minutes**

First Floor Conference Room, City Hall

June 17, 2015

3:00pm

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

**Commission members absent:** Sarah Jo Jorgensen

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

**Guest(s) present:** Keri

### **Call to Order**

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

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

The new DAC board member, Joyce Heiser, introduced herself. The committee welcomed Chelle Hart's guest, Keri, to the meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Aden moved to approve the meeting minutes from April 15, 2015. Gottsleben seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Continuing Business**

(A) **Committees for current and future events:** \*\* Board members who are interested in joining education and outreach efforts are asked to contact Moran or Lemieux.

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

- i. ArtAbility (Gottsleben, Sandness, and Jorgensen – Leader: Gottsleben) – The Committee is in discussion with staff at the Museum of Visual Materials to coordinate a date for next year's event. The Committee anticipates the event will take place in March 2016 or April 2016.

- ii. White Cane Law Day: White Cane Day is October 10, 2015. The event typically runs from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The group discussed sending out invitations to City Councilors. Moran discussed a complaint the Human Relations office has received from a man who was struck by a vehicle while using his wheelchair. The Board has asked to add a discussion on wheelchair awareness to the July agenda.
- iii. Spread the Word to End the Word: This event occurs in March. Commissioners interested in assisting with the event should notify Moran.
- iv. ADA Celebration (Lewison, Aden, Gottsleben, and Grimm-Leader: Lewison): The ADA Celebration will take place on July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Garden Inn. The Chamber of Commerce will be holding a ribbon cutting during the event. 5 social work CEUs have been approved for the conference. The Hilton has allowed for additional accessible parking spots the day of the event. The Commission anticipates 250-275 people in attendance.
- v. Public Events: The Commission discussed wheelchair awareness and adding this topic as an agenda item for the July DAC meeting. Gottsleben reported she is currently assisting with the Miss Wheelchair South Dakota event. The event is slated to take place in September 2015. The Commission discussed developing videos to raise awareness on white canes, wheelchairs, ADA parking, and diversity in Sioux Falls.

**b. Education and Outreach (Horner, Hart, Grimm and Aden – Leader: Aden):**

- i. Disability Friendly Sticker Program: Given to businesses that employ one or more persons with disabilities.
- ii. Disability Mentoring Day: Occurs in October; however, if a person with a disability or an employer is interested in a partnership throughout the year, this can be arranged.
- iii. Education and Awareness Materials: It was recommended that a handout be developed that lists privileges of people who don't use a wheelchair versus those who do use a wheelchair.
- iv. Public Events: No further items discussed.
- v. Presentations: There are opportunities for Commissioners to present at different service groups. Commissioners are encouraged to contact Moran for more information.

**New Business**

No new business was discussed.

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

## **HRC Report**

Schaefer updated the DAC on the HRC March meeting. The HRC provided outreach at the Cinco de Mayo event on May 9<sup>th</sup>, the Festival of Cultures on June 13<sup>th</sup> and will be at the Pride Festival on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. DAC members were encouraged to volunteer at outreach events. It was also noted that all volunteer timeslots for Pride Festival have been filled.

The ADA Celebration registration form is on the Human Relations website. Commissioners were asked to volunteer at the Celebration. Lemieux sent out a link detailing volunteer opportunities.

The Humanitarian Award has been scheduled for Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. The event will be held at the Orpheum.

New marketing materials were ordered and will be distributed at upcoming events.

Moran had reported about a discrimination case based on disability. The largest housing co-op in the United States, located in New York, employed an overly burdensome and intrusive policy governing waivers to its “no pets” rule, which has deterred and prevented people with disabilities from obtaining reasonable accommodations such as service animals. The housing co-op required individuals to complete five forms, two of which needed to be completed in blue ink and type-written. The co-op also specific the type of breed individuals could have and required all service animals to be spayed or neutered. In addition, individuals requesting such an accommodation were required to provide medical records. As part the lawsuit, the co-op has been ordered to pay a \$50,000 civil penalty.

A second case involved sex discrimination. A man recently began to present as a woman while at work. Her employer refused to address her as a woman and consistently referred to her as a “he.” In addition, the employer refused to let her use the women’s restroom. The lawsuit is currently under litigation

## **Roundtable/Public Comment**

Baireddy reported that there will be a booth set-up at the Juneteenth event this Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Board presented Hart with a plaque as she completed her term with the Disability Awareness Commission.

Public Comment: No comments.

## **Adjournment**

Having no further business, Hart moved to adjourn; Gottsleben seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

The next DAC meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2015, 3 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

*These minutes submitted by Tina Lemieux*