



## **Meeting Minutes**

First Floor Conference Room, City Hall

August 16, 2017

3:00pm

**Commission members present:** Dierdre DiMemmo, Deb Aden, Kimberly Huff, Sheila Sandness

**Commission members absent:** Joyce Heiser, Lori Lewison, Sarah Jo Jorgensen, Tana Zwart, Kendra Gottsleben,

**Staff present:** Colleen Moran, Assistant City Attorney, Valerie Schonewill, Human Relations Specialist

### **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 3:07 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made for the minutes of the July meeting to be amended to correct the date for the following meeting. After minutes were amended, they were unanimously approved.

### **Presentation on Service and Assistance Animals**

Moran described the ways that the law differs in regard to service animals and assistance animals. Service animals are covered by the ADA, and can only be a dog or a miniature horse. They can be brought most places, and business owners can only ask if it is a service animal for a disability and what tasks it is trained to perform. An assistance animal is covered by the Fair Housing Act. The owner is not required to pay a pet deposit, it can be any animal, any breed.

### **Continuing Business – Marketing Materials**

There was a discussion about shooting a PSA next month. Board members will email ideas for the content of the video. It was suggested that the new community liaison for the SFPD be in it talking about who to contact for domestic violence. It was also suggested to have shots that clearly demonstrate the difference between service animals and pets.

There was also a discussion about hearing loss not being considered a disability by some insurance companies in South Dakota and therefore not covered by health insurance as it is in other states. The Human Relations office will research whether this is discrimination based on disability.

### **Civil Rights Update**

Schonewill gave an update about the numbers of discrimination cases in employment that are based on disability. According to the EEOC, nationally the percentage of cases that are disability-related has been increasing gradually from 25 to 30% of all cases during this decade. In the 2016 fiscal year, the country had about 91,000 discrimination cases, about 30% disability related.

This past year, South Dakota had 56 discrimination cases filed with the EEOC. 23 of those were based on disability, about 42%.

Locally: The Human Relations office currently has 38 cases open, and 24 of them are based on disability. That's 63% of our active cases.

### **Public Comment**

No public was present for public comment.

### **Adjournment**

Organizations Meeting adjourned at 4:11pm.

The next DAC meeting is scheduled for September 20, at 3 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

*These minutes submitted by Valerie Schonewill*