



Meeting Minutes

Human Relations Conference Room, City Hall

October 17, 2018

3:00pm

Commission members present:, Kimberly Huff, Sarah Jo Jorgensen, Deb Aden, Morgan Jackson

Commission members absent: Carolyn Ly-Donovan, Sheila Sandness, Tana Zwart, Josh Reinfeld

Staff present: Valerie Schonewill, Human Relations Specialist; Leah Bernard, Human Relations Intern

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

September minutes were not approved due to lack of quorum.

New Business

1. Civil Rights Conference: Schonewill updated the group on the conference – will be 2/14/19 at Convention Center. DAC would like to have a vendor booth, Jorgensen, Jackson, and Aden would like to participate.
2. More details were shared about the Compassionate Sioux Falls Awards Banquet on 11/15/18.
3. Duties of Commission: the group discussed the mandate from Sioux Falls City Ordinance Chapter 98 that states the Disability Awareness Commission “shall act as an advisory body to the mayor and city council on disability awareness matters.” It was suggested the commission set up a meeting with the Mayor to discuss disability issues in Sioux Falls, and make him aware of the commission’s calendar, agendas, projects, and events. It was also suggested that the commission try to get on the City Council meeting agenda periodically to present issues, such as sufficient ADA accessible parking spots at public venues.

Civil Rights Update

Schonewill provided the group with information about the Human Relations Office discrimination cases – 40 cases are open currently and 14 of them are based on disability (35%). Next highest basis is race – 12 cases.

Schonewill also informed the group about a settlement reached in a discrimination case in Montana – an antique store asked a veteran with a service dog to leave because no dogs were allowed.

Bernard informed the group on a case in Rhode Island where the ACLU worked together with disability advocate groups to take legal steps against the state's Department of Education regarding the school district's failure to provide transportation to and from school for students with disabilities during a school bus strike.

Public Comment

No public was present for public comment.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:09 pm.

The next DAC meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2018 at 3:00pm in the Human Relations Conference Room.

Minutes submitted by Valerie Schonewill.