

MINUTES

Thursday, February 12, 2009



**Sioux Falls
Human Relations
Commission**

12 Noon—1 p.m.
1st Floor, City Hall
224 West Ninth Street

Commissioners: Present: Ahrendt, Aware, Carlson, Luecke, and Rist. DAC Liaison Misty Farabee

Absent: Abbott, Guzman, Lodu, Hariri, Waara and Williams

Staff: Gary Colwill, Human Relations Manager and Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant.

Guests:

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests

- Vice Chair Rist called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

- No quorum present – minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

3. Status of Cases/Staff Report

- Colwill updated the Commission on the status of the open cases.
- We are on tract to complete our EEOC contract for FY 2009
- Commissioners questioned the age of some complaints. Colwill responded that most of them are with the contract investigator. The investigator reports that those reports are being prepared. One complaint being investigated by staff is being delayed due to not be able to talk to the CP. Staff is concentrating on resolving the older complaints and keeping the new ones under the 180 day resolution deadline.

4. Appointment February Case Panel

- Abbott, Guzman, Lodu, Rist, Waara

Commission Chair: Karla Abbott

Commission Vice Chair: Terry Rist

Commission 3rd Officer: Vaney Hariri

HUMANITARIAN AWARD COMMITTEE
Chair—Terry Rist
Karla Abbott
Rod Carlson
Vaney Hariri
Wanda Harris

HUD Contract Committee
Karla Abbott
Qadir Aware
Rod Carlson
Vaney Hariri
Terry Rist
Clint Waara

PSA Committee
Sandra Guzman
James Lodu
Teresa Luecke
Kathy Rustwick
Billie Jo Waara

5. Continuing Business

a. Diversity Council Update – Colwill reported

- The Diversity Conference is being planned for November 2009 –the Thursday after Veteran’s Day, November 12th. The committee is looking at the MultiCultural Center (MCC) as the venue this year. They’re not sure if there is enough rooms for breakout sessions, but will tour the facility at their next meeting. They would like the venue to be downtown.
- The Diversity Council is planning to have a booth at various cultural events to reach out to the community. They were at the Martin Luther King Celebration and the next event is the BLN’s Inclusion Expo, March 18th at the Ramkota.

b. HUD Fair Housing Contract

- Staff was given the go ahead by the Mayor, City Attorney, and Finance Director to redraft Chapter 21 1/2 of the city’s ordinances as a step towards pursuing the HUD Fair Housing contract. The ordinance review by HUD can take 60-90days with a possibility of other suggested changes. The goal is to have everything in place to start at the beginning of FY 2010, October 1, 2009.
- Colwill has started with the ordinance revisions and hopes to have all of the revisions into to the City Attorney by next week.
- When the ordinance goes before the City Council for approval, the HRC should attend to show their support. It is important to make these changes because there is a need for stronger fair housing enforcement and it will pay for itself, maybe even make the City money.
- The contract would pay \$120,000 the first year of the contract to get the office set up. Investigators would be required to attend five weeks of training within three years to be HUD certified. After the first year, we will be paid \$2,500 per resolved charge. Any fines levied are paid to the City. Fines start at \$16,500 for the first offense and increase with frequency within a certain time period.
- The MCC has applied for the FHIP contract. This is the education side and is worth \$100,000. The money is used to educate tenants and can also be used to hire testers.

c. PSA / Website & Channel 16 Projects

- Staff met with the production staff of CH. 16 and the City’s webmasters to plan the 2009 projects.
- We would like to do three to four different PSA’s for the Human Relations Commission on different areas of civil rights and at least one to generate

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nominations for the Humanitarian Award. The Diversity Council needs to have a PSA so the community knows they exist.

- We also asked CH 16 to cover the 2009 ADA Celebration. This year's event will be at the Miracle Field.
- The webmasters will be adding links to the Diversity Council webpage.
- We need to schedule a subcommittee meeting to get things started.
- Farabee commented that ten or fifteen second PSAs can deliver a message just as well as thirty second PSAs and they may be easier to fit into a station's schedule.

7. New Business

- a. No new business was discussed.

8. Disability Awareness Commission Report

- The NOD Accessible America Award has not yet been announced. The DAC is deciding if they will work on the application for next year or leave it for someone else to pursue.
- The DAC hopes to be able to attend the BLN's Inclusion Expo and make the People First Language brochure available.
- The DAC sponsored disability awareness training for city/county employees is moving forward. We are finalizing dates.
- Special Olympic Games will be held in Sioux Falls over the next three years.
- The hotel survey the DAC worked on with the Convention/Visitors Bureau (CVB) is pending. A DAC representative is waiting to get on the CVB's agenda. We would have liked it to be on their website already for the Special Olympic participants to be able to use – probably too late for this year's event.

9. Public Comment

- Aware feels it is important that HRC members attend the monthly meetings.
- Aware invited everyone to come down to the MCC to view SD's Black History Museum.

10. Adjournment: Having no further business; the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.