

MINUTES

Thursday, March 12, 2009



**Sioux Falls
Human Relations
Commission**

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

Commissioners: Present: Ahrendt, Aware, Guzman, Hariri, Rist, and Williams.

Absent: Abbott, Carlson, Lodu, Luecke, Waara, and DAC Liaison, Farabee.

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 12:12 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Aware moved to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2008, meeting; Ahrendt seconded. Minutes were approved as presented; 6 yes - 0 no

3. Status of Cases/Staff Report

- Colwill updated the Commission on the status of the open cases. The six open files being investigated by staff are scheduled to have reports to the Commission by mid April.
- EEOC contracted charges – five of the five intakes have been completed and thirteen of the contracted resolutions have been submitted for credit.
- The lack of complaints coming in the door indicates we need to run our PSA again. Hariri suggested focusing a PSA on retaliation; fear of losing your job if you complain, may be keeping complainants from coming forward. We need to let the public know taking retaliation for complaining about discrimination is illegal, too.

4. Appointment March Case Panel

- Ahrendt, Aware, Carlson, Hariri, and Williams

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. Fair Housing ordinance update

- A draft of the revised ordinance is complete. Staff has a meeting with the Mayor next week to review it prior to submitting it to HUD for their review. HUD may come back with additional suggested changes/additions; this process can take up to ninety days.
- Once HUD has approved, it goes before the Mayor and Council to be approved/adopted. Our goal is to have it in place by the start of the Federal FY '10, which begins October 1, 2009.

b. PSA Subcommittee

- The PSA subcommittee was scheduled to meet March 11, 2009. The meeting was postponed when three members could not attend due to illness or conflict with work. Staff requested dates/times within the next two weeks to find a suitable time to reschedule.
- Garry requested the CH 16 production crew to provide our old PSA to Midco to run while we are working on creating a new one. (Latest development – they have to rework the old PSA because Jeff Munce is represented as the Commission staff. CH 16 will make corrections and recirculate to Midco and run it on CH 16 also.)

7. New Business

a. Membership

- Pastor Williams will not be seeking reappointment when his term ends in May 2009. He is interested on rejoining the Commission once he has the time to devote to it.
- Pastor Williams suggested Rev. Val Putnam with the Westminster Presbyterian Church be asked to apply. If any Commissioners can think of another possibility please let staff know and an application can be sent to them; be mindful that women are in the minority on the Commission.
- Aware stated that it is more important that possible Commission members have an interest in the work of the Commission more than what their protected class may be.
- Aware went on to state that current members need to make more of an effort to attend the Commission's scheduled monthly meetings. It is understandable when you have job commitments, though calendars were distributed at the beginning of the year that should help prevent scheduling conflicts.

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- A change in officers will likely take place this year also. Commissioners should be considering who they would nominate for Commission officers. Anyone interested in being an officer should let staff know.

8. Disability Awareness Commission Report

- The NOD's Accessible America Award has notified staff that the City has been selected as one of the seven finalists. This is the third year in a row that we have finished in the finals. There is some heavy competition with five of the seven finalists being repeat finalists and the selection of Denver to the finals. Denver is well known for being disability friendly.

9. Public Comment

- Aware reported to the Commission about the formation of an inter-faith task force. After the Martin Luther King Celebration, several members of the clergy decided to keep the collaboration alive, not just for the MLK holiday. An individual from the Denver area will be coming to help them get organized and grow.
- Along the lines of diversity, Colwill reported that he and Tracy Vik from the school district had a neighborhood diversity meeting at St. John's Lutheran Church and no one from the neighborhood came.

10. Adjournment: Having no further business; the meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.