

# MINUTES

Thursday, April 9, 2009



**Sioux Falls  
Human Relations  
Commission**

12 Noon—1 p.m.  
First floor, City Hall  
224 West Ninth Street

Commissioners: Present: Abbott, Aware, Carlson, Hariri, Lodu, Luecke, Rist, Waara, Williams, and DAC Liaison, Farabee.

Absent: Ahrendt and Guzman.

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

Guests:

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests

- Chairperson Abbott called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Aware moved to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2009, meeting; Carlson seconded. Minutes were approved as presented.

3. Status of Cases/Staff Report

- Colwill updated the Commission on the status of the open cases. There are currently 12 open cases. Six of these are being investigated by staff and three are with the contract investigator. The second oldest case is now closed. It had a probable cause finding and was removed to the court system.
- Some of the callers calling into the office have mentioned seeing the PSA; it does help get the word out.

4. Appointment—April Case Panel

- Abbott, Guzman, Lodu, Luecke, and Rist

5. Continuing Business

**a. Fair Housing Ordinance Update**

- Colwill has a meeting with the Mayor on April 10. If he approves of the ordinance changes, he will sign the letter and the packet will be sent to HUD for their review.
- The 90-day process is standard procedure for review. Colwill foresees further changes requested by HUD.

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**Commission Chair: Karla Abbott**

**Commission Vice Chair: Terry Rist**

**Commission 3<sup>rd</sup> Officer: Vaney Hariri**

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

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

PSA Committee  
Sandra Guzman  
James Lodu  
Teresa Luecke—Chair  
Dwayne Williams  
Kathy Rustwick  
Billie Jo Waara

**b. PSA Subcommittee**

- The PSA subcommittee met March 27. The first priority is to put together the PSA for the Humanitarian Award nominations. It will be a positive, extolling the great community we live in and how people giving of themselves have helped make it that way.
- The initial Human Relations PSA will focus on being more visual—less words/more impact on how retaliation is unlawful, and it should not prevent anyone from filing a charge of discrimination.

**c. Humanitarian Award**

- Rist will chair the Humanitarian Award Committee again for 2009.
- Possible dates were discussed and narrowed down to September 22 or 29.
- Carlson has checked with the Chamber and the Multi-Cultural Center to be sure there will not be a conflict with their events.
- We will use the Orpheum again for our venue, if it is available. We plan to serve beer and wine again.
- There will be a slight change in the format. The reception will remain private; by invitation only; however, the award program will be open to the public. We plan special advertisements to welcome the public.
- Colwill will prepare/send the award contract to the sculptor.
- June 1 is the target date to get the nomination forms and press release out and run the PSA requesting nominations. The Committee will decide which nominations will move forward and which ones do not qualify, and narrow the field to five finalists. The HRC will vote from the five finalists.
- Abbott will contact Yvonne Hawkins to see if she is available/interested. If she is not, our option is to ask our media sponsor to provide an MC. Our media sponsor will help the HRC promote the event.
- There are more decisions to come; this was the first meeting for this year's event. The Committee is open to suggestions on any of the plans, especially food suggestions.
- Aware was concerned about having alcohol when children will be present. SMG serves the alcohol and will be responsible for not serving to minors.

6. New Business

**a. Nomination Committee for May Election of Officers**

- Chairperson Abbott said she will not continue as chairperson; it is someone else's turn to guide the Commission.
- Vice Chair Rist also said he will not remain as an officer.
- Abbott, Rist, and Carlson will serve as the nomination committee and will prepare a slate of officers for the May 2009, election.

7. Disability Awareness Commission Report

- The DAC is finalizing plans for awareness training for City and county employees. The training is scheduled for September 1st and 2nd. Plans include viewing the *Ten Commandments of Communicating with People with Disabilities* and a panel of people with disabilities.
- At our last meeting, we discussed possible projects for 2009. We tried to focus on some things that we could do without costing much in terms of time and money.
- The Hotel Survey that we have been working on for awhile is finally on the Convention Visitors Bureau (CVB) website. The CVB will be sending a letter to their member hotels requesting their participation in taking the survey. Information from the surveys will help guide people to ADA-accessible accommodations.

8. Public Comment

- Aware asked for volunteers to help with the Festival of Cultures. The Diversity Council plans to have a booth at the event.
- Aware reported on the Civil Rights of the Dakotas opening event. April 8 was a luncheon with the welcome provided by Mayor Munson. There were less than 25 people attending. The purpose of the event was to announce the opening of their office. They mainly serve the Native American population. Malee Craft from the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights was the keynote speaker. Other speakers were Ron Volesky and Dr. David Yeagley.
- Pastor Williams announced that the Juneteenth Celebration will be held on June 11, 2009, at McKennan Park, from 5 to 8 p.m.

9. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.