

MINUTES

Thursday, January 14, 2010



**Sioux Falls
Human Relations
Commission**

12 Noon—1 p.m.
Commission Room, First Floor
City Hall
224 West Ninth Street

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

Absent: Guzman and Waara,

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

Guests:

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests

Chairperson Hariri called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

Carlson moved to approve the minutes from November 12, 2009, meeting; Abbott provided the second. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

3. Status of Cases/Staff Report

Colwill updated the Commission on the status of the open cases. Two of the oldest cases are being prepared for the case panel. The third one will be handed out today.

The Commission will begin using the contract investigator again – new year, new budget. So far we have not been asked to make any cuts to our budget. Five cases will be assigned to the investigator.

4. Appointment—November Case Panel

Ahrendt, Aware, Hariri, Waara, and Williams

5. Continuing Business

a. Diversity Council update

The Diversity Council will be seeking to incorporate and pursue 501(c)3 status. They plan to do this independently and not in connection with another non-profit. This will allow the Council to generate funds to provide for a budget which in turn will fund their projects. The goals of the Council will still be to provide education/awareness and promote diversity.

Commission Chair: Vaney Hariri

Commission Vice Chair: Clint Waara

Commission 3rd Officer: Teresa Luecke

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

The new board of directors will not be exactly the same as the current membership. A leadership board will be established and those members will reflect current membership.

Hariri is concerned that the idea generators would be limited – how are new ideas created?

Qadir has been concerned that the Council isn't connected to the people of the community. He feels the ethnic community needs to be involved, the mainstream shouldn't be the only ones involved.

Colwill hopes to have the documents ready to vote on at the Diversity Council's April meeting.

b. Brainstorm/gather ideas for marketing the HRC

The HRC should work with the Diversity Council on some ideas.

We need to focus on something do able & immediate. It should be measurable and consistent.

Some ideas:

Advertise on busses – find out first what the demographics are of transit users

Put together a frequently asked questions brochure/handout

Educate the ethnic community to make their place here

Attend other group's meetings (Diversity Council, MCC)

Have listening sessions

6. New Business

a. Forecast for 2010

Chairperson Hariri suggested having a strategic planning session – for more than an hour and offsite – outside of City Hall.

Any ideas, comments, suggestions should be forwarded to staff. Garry suggested visiting other human rights/relations websites to see what others in this field are doing.

7. Disability Awareness Commission Report

The DAC projects update:

ArtAbility is moving forward. We will be sending out a reminder soon.

The raised bed garden project is also moving forward. Supplies have been purchased and will be stored at the Park Shop until it is warm enough (and the snow has melted) to allow for assembly and set-up.

The DAC will be setting some goals/projects for 2010. In the past we have used other cities application's to the NOD's Accessible America award for ideas.

8. Public Comment

Aware invited everyone to the Martin Luther King celebration on January 18th at the MCC. Staff sent out an email earlier with the details.

The MCC will be having their strategic planning sessions beginning January 17th for ethnic population and January 19th for mainstream population.

9. Adjournment

Abbott moved to adjourn; Lodu seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.