

MINUTES

Thursday, April 8, 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, Carlson, Hariri, Luecke, Rist, Williams, and DAC Liaison, Farabee.

Absent: Aware, Guzman, Lodu, 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 12:01 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

Carlson moved to approve the minutes from January 14, 2010, meeting; Rist 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. The two oldest cases have gone to the case panel for review. The next three are either being written or the final stages of the investigations. The next eight are assigned to the contract investigator. She is having some problems with uncooperative respondents and locating complainants, but has completed interviews and scheduled others. We should be on track to meet our numbers for this year.

A recent case's probable cause finding may cause procedural problems since the respondent is no longer in business and is located out of state. It's possible that we will have a public hearing on the case.

4. Appointment—April Case Panel

Aware, Guzman, Lodu, Luecke, Rist

5. Continuing Business

a. Diversity Council update

The Diversity Council voted to incorporate at their April 6th meeting. Articles of Incorporation are being drawn up and the board of directors decided on.

Commission Chair: Vaney Hariri

Commission Vice Chair: Clint Waara

Commission 3rd Officer: Teresa Luecke

Enforcement Committee
Chair—Dwayne Williams
Rod Carlson
Vaney Hariri
James Lodu
Terry Rist
Staff – Gary Colwill

Education Committee
Chair -Karla Abbott
Val Ahrendt
Vaney Hariri
Teresa Luecke
Staff – Carol Garry

Events Committee
Chair - Clint Waara
Qadir Aware
Rod Carlson
Sandra Guzman
Vaney Hariri
Staff- Carol Garry

The Leadership Committee will have a similar makeup as the current Diversity Council – Mayor, School District Superintendent, Police Chief etc. and will meet when community issues arise.

The new Diversity Council will be able to raise funds for education and awareness of the benefits of diversity. Early May is the timeline to have everything set in place.

b. Committee Assignments/Designate Chairpersons

The three committees created at the March strategic planning meeting are: Enforcement, Education and Events.

- Enforcement: includes updating Chapter 21 1/2 and continuing to work toward fair housing equivalency, creation of policy and internal process improvement. Committee Chair – Williams. Committee members – Carlson, Hariri, Lodu and Rist. Staff- Colwill
- Education: includes creating talking points so there is consistent information coming from the Commission's members, developing information for employer/businesses, preparing a video to use as a training tool and for our PSA. Committee Chair – Abbott. Committee members – Ahrendt, Hariri, and Luecke. Staff- Garry
- Events: includes outreach and events like the Humanitarian Award and other events that we can take part in. The outreach for this committee is taking the information developed by the education committee and putting it into an event. Committee Chair – Waara. Committee members – Aware, Carlson, Guzman, Hariri. Staff- Garry

Chair Hariri suggested each committee create an email group to include staff.

Garry can provide email contact information if needed. Chairs will make a report at the next HRC meeting.

c. Humanitarian Award 2010

Due to low revenues all departments are required to trim their budgets. This will have an impact on the Humanitarian Award this year. We plan on having the sculpture and having a presentation at the Orpheum, but will have to cut the food and the entertainment. Foresee cutting back to \$3000. The Events Committee needs to start planning soon to stay on track for a fall event. It was suggested that we explore getting sponsors for the reception. Colwill noted that once you start having a sponsor, it will be difficult to get those funds back into the budget.

6. New Business

a. No new business.

7. Disability Awareness Commission Report

The DAC projects update:

ARTability is moving forward. We have received some photos of possible submissions. The deadline is May 14th to enter and the exhibit begins June 3rd with the artists' reception on June 24th, 6-8 pm.

Friendslink at Augustana will be holding a workshop to learn how to prepare their art for display at the Museum of Visual Materials.

Dare to Dream has an art exhibit as part of their conference and will refer artists to ARTability (ones that can't participate in their exhibit) and will include information in their conference packets about ARTability.

The raised bed garden project is on for May 1, 2010. We will be installing the beds at the N. Falls Park Community Garden with the help of SALSA.

The 2010 project selected is awareness training at the schools – target audience is 5th graders. We will be guided in getting this started by the Police Department's 'I Care' program and hopefully be ready to go by the beginning of 2011.

8. Public Comment

Pastor Williams invited everyone to their pancake breakfast at Friendship Baptist Church. Funds raised will keep the church alive.

9. Adjournment

Williams moved to adjourn; Abbott seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.