

MINUTES

Thursday, May 13, 2010



**Sioux Falls
Human Relations
Commission**

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

Commissioners: Present: Ahrendt, Aware (12:35), Hariri, Lodu, Waara, Williams, and DAC Liaison, Carmichael.

Absent: Abbott, Carlson, Guzman, Luecke, and Rist.

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 12:06 pm. The Commission did not conduct any official business until quorum was met at 12:35pm with the arrival of Aware.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ahrendt moved to approve the minutes from April 8, 2010, meeting; Waara 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 and both have probable cause finding. A couple of the others will be going to the May case panel for review. One charge is ready for the rebuttal statement which the CP asked to do in person. The summer intern for the City Attorney's Office will assist in taking the rebuttal statement.

Colwill asked the Commission if one of the recent probable cause cases should be dismissed because the respondent is no longer doing business or would they advise taking it to a public hearing. The consensus was to continue to the public hearing.

4. Appointment—May Case Panel

Ahrendt, Carlson, Hariri, Lodu, and Williams

5. Continuing Business

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

- a. **HRC Education Committee Report** – No meeting has been scheduled, no report.
- b. **HRC Enforcement Committee Report** – The Enforcement Committee Chairperson is trying to get a meeting scheduled.
- c. **HRC Events Committee Report** – Chairperson Waara reported that due to the budget hold backs, the Humanitarian Award reception will not be funded by the City. This gives us two options, not have the reception this year and re-establish it in the budget for next year or find outside funding. The second option would negate future funding through the City.
Waara will be approaching Wells Fargo and Citibank about sponsorships and Carlson will approach Sanford. We are looking for \$3000 to put on the reception. If we don't succeed with funding maybe we can have a small reception after the the award program with coffee/punch and cookies.

A new development for the Events committee involves the EEOC. Maria Flores is providing free educational presentations on employment discrimination for anyone or any organization who is interested in the Sioux Falls area. She will be here June 8-11. The Events committee will take input from the Commission on groups we should contact with this information.

Diversity Council update

The Articles of Incorporations should be done next week; the first step in becoming a 501 (c) 3. Their first meeting will be June 18th.

This year's Diversity Conference will be at the Ramkota.

6. New Business

- a. **Election of Officers – Pastor Williams nominated the current slate of officers to continue for another term – Hariri, Chair; Waara, V. Chair; and Luecke, 3rd Officer. Lodu seconded. The slate of officers were nominated and reelected by unanimous by those members present.**
- b. Misc. – Colwill provided as card and a piece of Native American pottery for the HRC to give to Mayor Munson as a token of our appreciation for his support of the Commission and our programs and activities. All signed the card and Colwill added the names of those not present. No public funds were used to purchase this gift.
Hariri suggested we invite Mayor Huether to our next meeting. Since Colwill will be attending the EEOC/FEPA conference that week, we won't be having a June meeting; the next scheduled meeting is July 8th.

Also since we won't be having a June meeting, the HRC subcommittees could use this time to meet.

7. Disability Awareness Commission Report

The DAC projects update:

The raised bed gardens went in May 1st at the N. Falls Park Community Garden. There were 16 volunteers from SALSA and 16 other volunteers that helped build and fill six beds. The weather wasn't the best, but at least it didn't rain. They started at 8am and finished about 5:40pm.

ARTability has about twenty entries so far. The deadline is May 14th to enter and the exhibit begins June 3rd with the artists' reception on June 24th, 6-8 pm.

The Awareness Training committee has made contact with the SF School District to provide disability awareness training in the elementary schools next school year.

8. Public Comment

On behalf of the HRC, Chair Hariri thanked Aware for his work with the ethnic community – he has been a great asset for the HRC and the community.

Aware reported that they will be opening the 'All Ethnic Community Center' next month.

9. Adjournment

Waara moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.