

MINUTES

Thursday, December 8, 2011



**Sioux Falls
Human Relations
Commission**

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

Commissioners: Present: Ahrendt, Aware, Bloom (left @ 12:25), Brennan, Carlson, Guzman, Knobloch, and Owens. DAC liaison - Carmichael

Absent: Hariri, Haase, and Simon

Staff: Colleen Moran, Human Relations Manager and Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant

Guests: Doug Hoy, Roseann Burkett, and Helen Hartmann - ADA Accessibility Review Board and Julie Briggs - Disability Awareness Commission.

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests/New Member

Vice Chairperson Ahrendt called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. Roundtable introductions of guests and new HRC member Kathy Knobloch.

2. Approval of Minutes

Carlson moved to approve the November 10, 2011, meeting minutes, Owens provided the second. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Status of Cases Report

Moran provided a report on the status of the open cases. Two of the older housing charges have recently closed. Four in the investigation stage are waiting for responses from attorneys. Two have recently been turned over for investigation and the remaining cases are waiting for rebuttal statements from CP's or answers from respondents. Cases will be sent to the case panel – depending on how soon the attorneys respond to the investigator's requests.

4. Appointment—November Case Panel – Panel B

Case Panel A - Ahrendt, Bloom, Carlson, Haase and Simon

Commission Chair: Vaney Hariri

Commission Vice Chair: Valorie Ahrendt

Commission 3rd Officer: Joanne Haase

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair – Vaney Hariri
Val Ahrendt
Joanne Haase

Staff – Colleen Moran

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair – Maggie Owens
Joanne Haase
Steve Brennan
Vaney Hariri

Staff – Colleen Moran
Carol Garry

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Chair – Rod Carlson
Val Ahrendt
Qadir Aware
Katie Bloom
Sandra Guzman
Vaney Hariri
Dan Simon

Staff – Colleen Moran
Carol Garry

Case Panel B – Aware, Brennan, Guzman, Owens, Knobloch

5. Continuing Business

a. Education Committee Report – Garry/Moran

The Diversity Conference had 350 attendees. Both Moran and Hariri gave presentations. The HRC and DAC shared a booth. The HRC received twenty completed surveys and gave out about ten 6-in-1 posters.

Survey results:

8 – knew about the HRC prior to today; 12 – were not aware

3 – knew the HRC provided training; 17 - didn't know

Interested in: materials – 4; video – 2; speaker – 4; training – 1.

We have the contact information for those interested in more information. We will be contacting them to get specifics.

In hindsight, the presenters should have had surveys with them to hand out at their presentations.

b. Mayor's Listen and Learn - December 3

The City Attorney's Office was highlighted at this session, specifically the Human Relations Commission. City Attorney Dave Pfeifle, HRC representatives Hariri, Moran, Ahrendt, Haase, and Aware were present. There were ten to fifteen other attendees at the downtown library. A lot of the same concerns that have been brought up before were brought up again. Some are things we can do something about while others we cannot.

Aware mentioned he would like to see the phrase 'share information' used in place of the word 'educate'. He feels saying we're educating people means that we think they are uneducated when they are not.

A gentleman with a criminal history was looking for help with housing. Moran has helped him contact the appropriate agency.

6. New Business

a. Update from ADA Accessibility Review Board 2011 projects reviewed/future projects

ADA ARB Chairperson Doug Hoy listed the projects the Board reviewed in 2011:

- 1) Zoo entry & snow monkey exhibit
- 2) Sherman Park ball fields E-F-G
- 3) Design concepts for proposed event center
- 4) Household hazardous waste facility office & education center
- 5) 8th Street Reconstruction – MN to Main

Future projects include a more detailed review of events center and possibly park projects.

Moran thanked the ADA ARB for their service. The Board provides invaluable input as they can see things from different perspectives.

Snow removal was mentioned as a continuing concern that affects accessibility. Moran asked that anyone noticing snow removal issues should call the City to let them know. The City is very dependent on the citizens notifying them of problems as the City doesn't have the manpower to cover every street, sidewalk or curb cut for snow removal issues.

b. Update from Disability Awareness Commission – 2011 projects reviewed, plans for 2012.

ARTability- This is the second year for this art exhibit at the Museum of Visual Materials (MoVM) November – December. Plans to have another in 2012 but may have to change venues because the MoVM is booked for the entire year.

Awareness Training – DAC held two training sessions in 2011. One was for Sanford Health and one at the Diversity Conference. Plans are to have one for mentors at the high school level. Future plans for this training include Avera and another round with the elementary schools, 4th graders.

Owens suggested the DAC consider including higher education institutions in the awareness training program

ADA Resource Library – the downtown library put together a display of the materials they have at the library regarding people with disabilities. The media ranged from books to videos. City staff created a book mark to hand out in recognition of October/ Disability Awareness month. The DAC plans to do it again next year.

Gas Station sticker program – this program would create awareness with the gas stations of the requirements to accommodate people with disabilities who may need assistance filling their vehicles with gas. This is still a work in progress.

c. Update from HRC – 2011 projects reviewed – 2012 plans/projects

Staff is working on a program to develop community leaders called Community Connections. The HRC is a sponsor. There are ten – twelve individuals who have been identified as possible community leaders. Plans are to meet twice per month to meet with City department representatives to provide information to these individuals about what each department is responsible for and when/why they would need to contact that particular department for help/answers. This first session will last until June. Future plans are to continue with a new group.

2011 projects include the 'Discrimination is Illegal' billboards and bus signs. That graphic was also used to create bookmarks and a display stand to be used at events. The Education Committee put together a 6-in-1 poster to hand out at the Diversity Conference and can use them at other events/trainings. Future plans include a training video.

Staff and HRC members just participated in the Mayor's Listen and Learn session.

7. Disability Awareness Commission Report –already given as an earlier agenda item.

8. Public Comment –

Aware had invited two Somalian community members to today's meeting to inform the HRC about the problems their community has had recently with money transfers home to Somali. He said the transfers have been shut down because of concerns the money was used to fund terrorists. Some innocent people have lost a lot of money due to this situation.

Aware said he is planning on bringing a guest to every meeting from the ethnic community. He also said he can help identify the true leaders of the different ethnic communities.

Moran wanted to thank all of the boards for their service to the City the past year. Lunch is really not sufficient enough to express our gratitude.

9. Adjournment

Having no further business Vice Chairperson Ahrendt adjourned the meeting at 12:47 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.