

MINUTES

Thursday, March 10, 2011



**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, Guzman, Hariri, Lodu, Rist, and Waara.

Absent: Carlson, Luecke, Williams, and DAC Liaison

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

Guests:

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests

Chairperson Hariri called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

Aware moved to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2011, meeting; Lodu provided the second. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

3. Status of Cases/Staff Report

Moran updated the Commission on the status of the open cases. The oldest case is a probable cause that is still open, but staff will be moving forward to get the public hearing scheduled. Commissioners eligible for the hearing panel are Abbott, Ahrendt, Carlson, Hariri, Waara, and Williams. Hariri volunteered to be on the panel.

Three of the remaining open cases have been assigned to mediation. Three that were assigned to one of the outside investigators will be returned and will be investigated by staff. The other two assigned to this investigator will have the reports submitted soon. The same is true for the remaining three assigned to the other investigator.

4. Appointment—March Case Panel

Abbott, Guzman, Luecke, Rist, and Waara.

5. Continuing Business – Committee Reports

a. Development of Marketing Plans

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 –

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

After a brief discussion the Commission decided on the design to use for the planned billboard. It will also be used in the 'no charge' space on the outside of the bus.

Posters with more details will be used on the inside of the busses and for posting on community bulletin boards.

Staff will send the final of the design after the suggested changes have been made. For one of the other suggested designs we will need to take a group picture of the Commission; also take individual pictures to use on their HRC cards.

One of the other ideas for marketing was to use the phrase "Isn't that ridiculous" to point out situations where judging people by certain characteristics is ridiculous – for example, green eyed people are lazy. That's ridiculous, so is making prejudicial statements about others based on a protected class status – race, color, national origin, disability, etc. The Commission was asked to provide similarly ridiculous statements.

Other marketing plans:

- City Council informational meeting
- Listening and learning session with the Mayor
- La Voz Hispana – Juan Bonilla will be in on Friday, March 18 @ 1:15pm to talk about the HRC – if you have any questions you think we need to answer, please send them in so we can forward to Bonilla. Guzman and Lodu plan to attend.

6. New Business

a. Fair Housing Report

Chairperson Hariri explained about the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing report compiled by Community Development with the assistance from community stakeholders. It is available online; staff will send the link.

The most common impediments identified are: credit background, criminal history, and transportation. The information in the report should assist the Commission identify what actions to take as future projects.

b. New Commissioner Recruitment

There are three Commission members leaving when their terms expire June 1, 2011, Abbott, Luecke, and Rist. Pastor Williams has also notified staff that he will be resigning. Please send any recommendations for new members to the Commission office.

7. Disability Awareness Commission Report – Garry reported.

The DAC is working on the projects identified for 2011. Their disability awareness trainings that they did at the schools last year will not take place this year; the subcommittee decided to take that on every other year. They do have plans to part of the SD Safety Council's annual conference and the Diversity Conference – both are fall events.

The subcommittee involved with the hotel accessibility guide is working on developing a rating system that will be on the Convention and Visitors' Bureau website.

Approximately twenty surveys were turned in by CVB member hotels and the subcommittee will do a site review for one out of every ten surveys submitted. \\\ ArtAbility is scheduled for November/December. The call for art was sent out and we're getting a few inquiries in.

The gas station sticker program is moving forward. The subcommittee is drafting a letter to send to the gas stations; Fire Rescue provided a mailing list.

The subcommittee is working with staff at the main, downtown library on a disability resource display for October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

8. Public Comment

9. Adjournment

Abbott moved to adjourn; seconded by Rist. The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.