

MINUTES

Thursday, November 10, 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, Carlson, Haase (12:15pm), Hariri, Owens and Simon. DAC liaison - Carmichael

Absent: Bloom, Brennan, Guzman and Knobloch

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 12:08 p.m. No guests were present.

2. Approval of Minutes

Simon moved to approve the October 13, 2011, meeting minutes, Owens provided the second. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Appointment—November Case Panel – Panel A

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

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

4. Status of Cases Report

Moran provided a report on the status of the open cases. The older cases were put on hold while staff worked on the cases dual-filed with the EEOC in order to meet our FY '11 contract resolutions. EEOC FY '11 ended at the end of September. There will be some cases ready to review soon.

Commission Chair: Vaney Hariri

Commission Vice Chair:

Commission 3rd Officer: Valorie Ahrendt

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair – Vaney Hariri
Val Ahrendt

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

5. Continuing Business

a. Education Committee Report - Owens

The HRC will have a booth at the Diversity Conference, shared with the DAC. We will be using our new banner stand that will display the 'Discrimination is Illegal' poster. The Committee has put together a new Federal labor law requirements poster – adding the new NLRB posting and information on the HRC. A simple survey will also be readied to hand out. Hopes are that those interested in more information or training from the Commission will fill out a survey and indicate their desire to be contacted.

The Committee is anxious to get started on the 'Isn't that Ridiculous' campaign.

At the Mayor's recent diversity roundtable (Nov. 1), the group discussed ways to engage community involvement with some kind of community leader training. The program would be participant driven with different organizations making presentations on what their organization does so the community leaders will be knowledgeable about where/who to go to with certain problems or situations. There is a real need in the community for advocacy. The HRC can help spread the word and be involved. The program is meant to get the community to work together to get others involved to create a better community. They are looking for interested parties. Please let Colleen know if you know of anyone who would be interested in being a community leader.

Aware stated that he does not believe there is anyone in the community that has a passion to help the ethnic community. People need to be involved with ethnic events. Haase would like Aware to join the education committee.

b. Events Committee Report – Carlson

The Events Committee would like to get the 2012 Humanitarian Award nomination process started up again right away.

A couple of wrap-up points – bring up the house lights when introducing people who are seated in the audience and maybe send out tickets to the event to increase interest; need to do more that people can see to create awareness of the event.

6. New Business

a. Nomination/Election of Vice Chair -

Carlson nominated Ahrendt to move from the third officer slot to the Vice Chair position. Haase volunteered to act as the third officer. They were approved by unanimous vote of the Commission.

7. Disability Awareness Commission Report – Carmichael

ArtAbility –The artists' reception is tonight- 6-8pm. The exhibit runs during November and December at the Museum of Visual Materials. Forty four artists have submitted entries.

2012 Projects – The DAC is reviewing options for their 2012 projects. They plan to continue the ADA Resource Library, the awareness training, and ARTability. They are considering a project to show more ADA accessible venues on the Convention & Visitors' Bureau (CVB) website.

8. Public Comment –

Staff will forward information on the Mayor's Neighborhood Summit on Saturday, November 19th.

Aware has seen former HRC Manager Gary Colwill and feels the Commission should send him a card as he continues to battle cancer.

9. Adjournment

Having no further business Chairperson Hariri adjourned the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.