

MINUTES

Thursday, May 10, 2012



**Sioux Falls
Human Relations
Commission**

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

Commissioners: Present: Ahrendt, Bloom, Brennan, Carlson, Hariri, Haase, Owens (12:22 p.m.), and Simon. DAC liaison – Briggs

Absent: Aware, Guzman, and Knobloch

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

Guests:

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests/New Member

Chairperson Hariri called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Carlson moved to approve the April 12, 2012, meeting minutes, Simon provided the second. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Status of Cases Report

The six oldest cases should be ready to go to the panel next week.

Incoming cases have slowed – only two filed in April.

4. Appointment— April Case Panel – Panel A

Case Panel A - **Ahrendt, Bloom, Carlson, Haase and Simon** (Hariri will substitute for Bloom at the end of May)

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

5. Continuing Business

a. Education Committee Report –

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
Kathy Knobloch

Staff – Colleen Moran
Carol Garry

EVENTS COMMITTEE

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

Staff – Colleen Moran
Carol Garry

The Commission reviewed the updated handout information for the HRC and the Disability Awareness Commission and the HRC's 'swag' – pens and beach balls.

b. Events Committee – Volunteers for Juneteenth and Festival of Cultures

Juneteenth is scheduled for June 14th, the Thursday before the Festival of Cultures on June 16th. Staff will send out the schedule for volunteer sign up.

The news release went out on the request for Humanitarian Award nominations. The information is on the HRC website. Staff is getting some things readied before scheduling an events committee meeting. Carlson will send information he has gathered on the various service organizations and staff will put it together. This will provide information of when and where these organizations meet. This should help any presenters decide which organizations they would like to meet with. Moran has already prepared a power point presentation.

c. Community Connections update –

Since the last HRC meeting, Community Connections has met with the Fire Department and Human Resources and Human Relations.

Fire Chief Sideras presented information from the fire department. Sioux Falls Fire and Rescue is one of the few fire departments in the country that is internationally certified. One of their most impressive programs is the defibrillation program. The department has distributed portable defibrillation equipment for public access.

HR Director Bill O'Toole provided information on the City's application and hiring process. The City gets a large amount of applications – especially for police and fire positions but have a limited number of openings. They are working on diverse hiring. It is important to research/focus on how the openings are communicated to the general public.

Next sessions are with Park/Rec and Water.

6. New Business –

a. Election of Officers

Current officers are Hariri, Chair; Ahrendt, Vice Chair; Haase, Third Officer.

Haase nominated Hariri and Ahrendt to serve another term in their current roles. Simon nominated Haase to continue as third officer.

By unanimous vote the current officers will remain in place until May 2013.

b. EEOC Training

EEOC trainer, Maria Flores will be in the area next week to provide training to various organizations. Staff arranged for presentations at Independent Living Choices and the YWCA. She will also present to City staff and the Human Relations Commissioners. We discussed asking her to return in November for the Diversity Conference. Commissioners suggested securing continuing education credits to draw in more participants. They also suggested putting out a news release that the training is available.

c. Chapter 211/2 - Revision Explanation

Moran offered a brief explanation about the process for revising the ordinance. When determining whether a case results in a probable/no probable finding, the investigator looks at case law – decisions made by local, state, and federal courts. Case law gives indications how the courts have ruled in similar situations, establishing guidelines or precedents to follow. Regarding federal court decisions, Sioux Falls is under the jurisdiction of the 8th Circuit and so those are the cases that are reviewed for guidance. Chapter 21 1/2 gives the HRC the authority to act when discrimination as defined by the ordinance occurs.

Moran pointed out that we also need to look closely at the duties of the HRC as they are defined in the ordinance.

7. Disability Awareness Commission Report – Briggs reported

Briggs updated the HRC on the status of the DAC's projects.

- ARTAbility – the call for art was sent out for the exhibit scheduled for Jan/Feb 2013

- Awareness Training – looking at a presentation with Avera and again with the schools.

NDEAM is having an October 11, 2012, 8-9:30 a.m. event at the Sanford Center. It will be a breakfast meeting with the venue and food provided by Sanford. Moran will be the keynote speaker.

- COPP (Citizens on Parking Patrol) – a meeting has been scheduled to set up an action plan.

- Mentoring Day – This is a national event occurring in October. The DAC is working with the Business Resources Network (BRN) to find twenty businesses and match them with twenty students to mentor.

- White Cane Day – October 13, 2012, a march from the Federal Court House down Phillips Avenue, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Main Library will have a showing of "Going Blind" in conjunction with the event. The purpose of the 'march' is to raise awareness of the laws that apply to sharing the streets with those who use white canes as mobility aids.

Briggs asked the Commission to consider posting the HRC information and logo on the BRN website. It was agreed to provide the information and logo to the BRN for posting.

8. Public Comment –

9. Adjournment

Having no further business Chairperson Hariri adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.